

The SPORTS PINK

55p

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Terry Paine runs his eye over Saints' summer transfer targets – See page 5

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HOLMES FROM THE HEART...

**Departing winger reveals
all on his time with Saints**

LEE Holmes has given a heartfelt assessment of his time at Saints, following his release from the club.

The winger, who this week signed a two-year deal with Preston, insists his four years at St Mary's will remain with him for the rest of his life.

In today's exclusive interview, the 25-year-old laments the injuries that helped scupper his chances of regular first-team football at

Saints, but credits the club with helping him grow both as a player and a person.

"Even though I didn't play as much as I wanted, I became a better player and a better person and, in life, that's an achievement in itself," he says.

And Holmes has backed the team to now go on and possibly even challenge for the Champions League in the coming years.

● Turn to pages 2-3 for full interview



NON-LEAGUE



EIGHT pages of the latest news

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KIDS FOOTY



SIX pages of youth picture specials

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CRICKET



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Roy backing tech testing

ENGLAND boss Roy Hodgson has backed the experiment with goal-line technology in today's Wembley friendly with Belgium.



Although the system will not be operational in the sense of results being sent back to referee Peter Rasmussen, it will be a crucial part of a debate that may result in FIFA sanctioning the use of a system to rule on whether the ball has crossed the line when they meet in July.

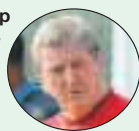
Like most managers, Hodgson is a strong advocate of the game using modern techniques to get better results.

And he has described today's test – which follows the first Hawk-Eye testing at the recent Hampshire Senior Cup final at St Mary's – as "a step forward".

"It is another advance technologically and one which I hope will prove successful and will at least banish some of the ghosts of the past," he said.

"The debate has gone on for quite a while now, hasn't it?"

"I don't think there are too many people in football who have too many objections to goal-line technology because there is nothing worse than losing a game because a goal you scored has been disallowed when everybody can see afterwards that it was a goal."



HODGSON

Liebherr Cup line-up

SAINTS will play Arsenal and Glasgow Rangers in this year's Markus Liebherr Memorial Cup.

The pre-season tournament will take place at St Mary's on Saturday, July 14, when the Olympic torch relay will also pass through the stadium.

Arsenal's attendance, which was exclusively revealed in the Daily Echo last month, is part of the deal which saw Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain move to the Emirates last summer.

The tournament sees the three teams compete against each other in a series of round-robin 45-minute matches, with ties decided by spot kicks. Three points are awarded for a win, two for a victory on penalties and one for defeat in a shoot-out.

The first match, between Saints and Rangers, will kick-off at 5.15pm, with the Olympic torch due in the stadium at 6.20pm.

Arsenal v Rangers will follow at 6.45pm, with Saints and Arsenal clashing in the final fixture, at 8pm.

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Saints Spotlight

Gordon Simpson

gordon.simpson@dailyecho.co.uk
SPORTS REPORTER



LEE Holmes insists his time as a Saints player will live with him for the rest of his life.

The winger's four-year stay at Southampton comes to an end this summer, with the club having announced they are releasing him.

There is no bitterness at being let go from Holmes – one of the most decent and honourable players you will meet – simply a slight sense of sadness.

That has been tempered by the two-year deal he has agreed with League One side Preston, which kicks in on July 1.

But the 25-year-old admits it is still difficult to leave the club where he grew both as a player and a person.

"Obviously, I'm sad to be leaving," he says. "There are a lot of good friends that I've built up over the last four years."

"I've become quite close with a lot of the lads, so it's sad to be ending that, and with the club getting to the Premiership, I won't be a part of all that either."

"But, at the same time, I want to go and achieve things and build on my career."

"The friendships I have built at Southampton are something I will take with me for the rest of my life."

"I always feel I made the right choice and, even though I didn't play as much as I wanted, I became a better player and a better person and, in life, that's an achievement in itself."

If there is one disappointment in his time as a Saint, it is the amount he actually played.

CRUEL

So cruel was Holmes' luck with injuries that you sometimes wondered if he didn't just cross a black cat at some point in his life, but actually ran a couple of them over.

After signing on a free transfer from boyhood club Derby in summer 2008, he started life at Saints – then under the leadership of Jan Poortvliet – impressively.

But six weeks after the start of the season, during a game at QPR, he suffered medial ligament damage in his right knee, sidelining him for three months.

"That's one game that sticks in my mind," reflects Holmes.

"It was a pretty bad injury and, after that, I was always trying to play catch up with the season and get back into people's plans."

"That does stick in my mind as a massive turning point in how my career went. But, likewise, there was still three more years left."

Holmes returned just before Christmas, but lasted just one month before blowing out his knee again, this time away to Norwich, in new manager Mark Wotte's first game in charge, prematurely ending his season.

By the time he next played, Alan Pardew had taken over as first-team boss, and Holmes struggled to break into the new man's plans, featuring just eight times in 2009/10.

Under Nigel Adkins (pictured right), he appeared to have a brighter future, playing fairly regularly in the first few months of the 2010/11 campaign.

But Holmes was dealt another

devastating blow when he broke down with an ankle injury in a second round FA Cup game against Cheltenham. The rest of his season was effectively written off.

"The last injury was a massive,

massive blow, because I thought I had got to a point where I was in Nigel's plans," explains Holmes.

"I was back to my best and for that to come at that time

was a massive blow mentally and physically."

At one point, it appeared as though Holmes' career itself could be in the balance. But he once again battled back to fitness.

"To have had the massive ankle injury, and going through the heartache of rehab, not knowing whether things would get better or if I would play again, and to then come through it on the other side was incredible," he says.

"I can remember people saying I wouldn't be back for a year. But the medical staff did an amazing job with me. The medical

staff at Southampton are probably up there with the best in the country."

"For me to be on the bench at Plymouth when we got promoted (from League One) was an achievement in itself."

"I was never meant to be back until Christmas, so to return in five or six months was a big moment for me and my family."

With Saints having won promotion to the Championship with a settled team, and new additions on the way, it was always going to be tough for Holmes to break back in.

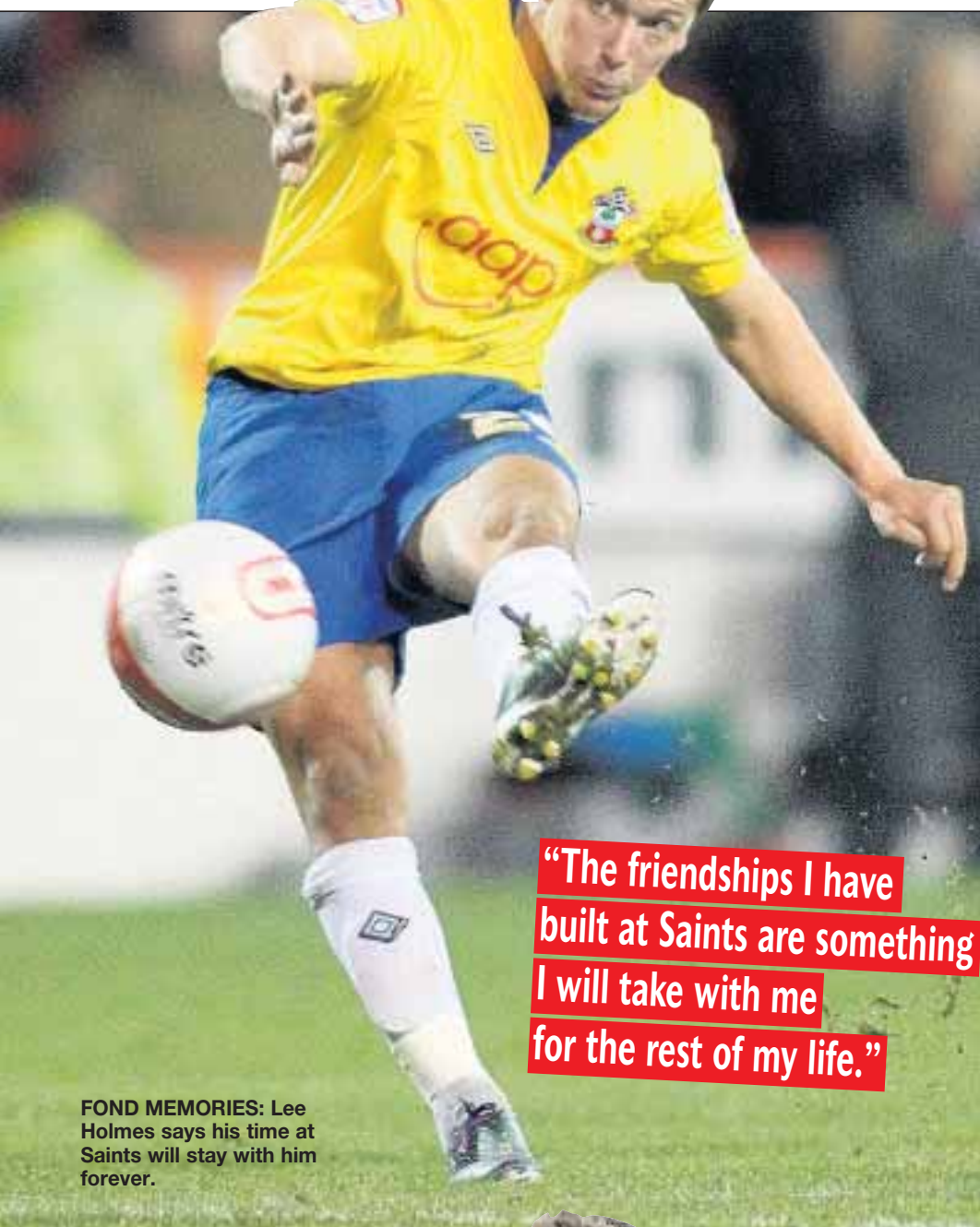
Despite the occasional appearance, including scoring in a 4-0 home win over Watford just after his wife gave birth to the couple's baby boy, he was sent out on loan in the second half of the campaign, first to Oxford United and then Swindon, who he helped win promotion out of League Two.

On his return to St Mary's, he was informed his contract would not be renewed.

In Holmes' time at Saints, there



Saints Spotlight



"The friendships I have built at Saints are something I will take with me for the rest of my life."

FOND MEMORIES: Lee Holmes says his time at Saints will stay with him forever.

wasn't much that he didn't see – four different managers, administration, relegation, a Wembley cup win and two promotions.

As well as the injuries, the raft of managerial changes didn't help his chances.

"With different managers come different opinions," says Holmes. "Going through that many managers in that short a period is tough, and it's a difficult thing to go through."

Just as hard was the period of administration in 2009. Holmes, though, has a positive outlook on that otherwise depressing saga.

"Sometimes when that happens, when a club goes down to its foundations, you can only build upwards, and that's what has happened," he says.

"In the long term, you would probably say it was one of the best things that happened to Southampton in that period, because it triggered the new owners to come in and move it forward."

Since Markus Liebherr's takeover that summer, the club have not looked back.

Two promotions in successive seasons, both under Adkins, have taken them from League One into the Premier League. And

Holmes expects the rise to continue.

"The club is only going to go onwards and upwards," he says. "There's a passion behind the scenes that means they won't stop until they achieve what they want."

"I think there is going to be a time where Southampton will be a force to be reckoned with in English football."

"In the next five years, I expect them to be right up there with the best of them."

Holmes believes that European football is a realistic goal in the coming seasons.

"You look at the passion and backing behind the club, and the infrastructure involved, and I can't see why not,"



he says. "Look at the clubs in the Premier League who are all fighting for European spots."

"I can't see why Southampton can't get right up there with them in the next couple of years."

"I'm not saying it will be next season, but definitely in the next few years."

Even the Champions League isn't out of the question, according to Holmes.

"Long term, I think you could only look to strive for that," he says.

"I think the long term goals between everyone in the club are that they are looking for the highest achievement in football."

"I wouldn't be surprised if there isn't a plan in place for that to happen in the next five years, or maybe a little bit longer."

With Adkins at the helm, Holmes believes anything is possible.

"I've got nothing but good words to say about Nigel," he says.

"Since he came in, I have grown a lot as a player and I have learnt a lot."

"I think the way he deals with players is very good."

"He gets his point across very quickly and the lads all seem to be buying into it, and that's why they are doing so well."

"His record of promotions speaks for itself."

"He's got one of the best CVs for promotions there is in English football."

"You look at a manager such as Paul Lambert and people will treat him as one of the best British managers around."

"I can't see why Nigel can't be the same."

Holmes is also confident Saints' squad has many of the building blocks in place to be successful in the top flight.

TOP PLAYER

"I think Rickie Lambert undoubtedly will do well in the Premiership," he says. "I think he's got all the attributes you need to be a top player there."

"He's so clever, he's a great finisher and throughout his career he's just banged goals in, and I can't see that will be any different next season."

"Adz [Adam Lallana, pictured left], for him to have done what he's done this season, with all the pressure on him, he's obviously a special talent."

"There's no question he will achieve big things next season."

"But I could go through the whole team. They all deserve to be Premier League players and I don't see why they all can't play a part next season and have a big impact."

"I think Match of the Day will be talking about them a lot."

"They're all winners, and I can't see them not doing well."

Holmes, who made 43 appearances and scored three goals for Saints, added: "I can honestly say I've never been involved in a squad and a club that's so close."

"Everyone gets along really well, not only in the team, but also in a sense of wives and partners."

"There's a real connection between everyone, and that speaks volumes about what's happened in the club in the last few years."

"I have never been involved in something that felt so special – and that's one massive thing I'm going to miss."

Rodgers aims to end wait

BRENDAN Rodgers has become the latest Liverpool manager to attempt to end the club's long wait for league glory.

Here, the Sports Pink looks at those who have tried and failed to lead the Reds to the title since Kenny Dalglish last achieved the feat in 1990.

RONNIE MORAN (caretaker): Dalglish resigned in 1991 and former Liverpool player Moran stepped up from the bench and took over on a temporary basis. He managed for only 10 games but was in charge again in 1992 when Graeme Souness was in hospital for heart surgery.

GRAEME SOUNESS: The Scot's time at Liverpool saw the club suffer one of the bleakest spells in the club's history. In his autobiography Souness revealed several of the senior players 'lacked desire'. A 1992 FA Cup final win over Sunderland was arguably the high point of his time at Anfield, which ended in early 1994.

ROY EVANS: Another former player, Evans took over after the departure of Souness and made several key additions to the side, while giving more first team opportunities to the likes of Steve McManaman, Jamie Redknapp and Robbie Fowler. Managed only a League Cup win in 1995 and left in late 1998.

ROY EVANS AND GERARD HOULLIER: In 1998 Houllier joined Evans and they became joint managers. The partnership was not a success and Evans resigned in the November leaving Houllier in sole charge.

GERARD HOULLIER: In his six years at the club Houllier reinvented Liverpool with an array of new signings and in his second full season - 2000-01 - the Reds won the UEFA Cup, FA Cup and League Cup. However, the Frenchman lost the support of fans towards the end of his reign and left the club in May 2004.

RAFAEL BENITEZ: In his first year at the club Liverpool finished fifth in the Premier League but won the Champions League after beating AC Milan 3-2 in a penalty shoot-out. Benitez left the club in 2010 after Liverpool failed to qualify for European football's top club competition.

ROY HODGSON: Hodgson took charge when Liverpool was for sale and his role was to steady the ship. His appointment was met with a mixed response from fans and media and at the turn of the year, Liverpool had their lowest points total since 1953-54. He left the club in January 2011 by mutual consent.

KENNY DALGLISH: The former Reds manager made a return to the club after Hodgson's departure and it was the appointment the fans longed for. Dalglish led Liverpool to their first trophy in six years – the League Cup – in February but they finished eighth in the Premier League, 17 points adrift of the top four. An FA Cup final appearance was not enough to save Dalglish, who was sacked on May 16.



Southside AFC

Recent winners of two Fair Play awards have teams looking for players.

u11's are putting together a completely new team and need lots of players, if you feel you can help fill the gaps please call our team Manager Monday to Friday from 5pm. **Scott Baddams on 07906900598.**

The u12's are looking to strengthen their squad with new talent, training is held at Green Park, Millbrook on Wednesday's.

Please contact the team manager; **Keith Ryves on 07766887114.**

The u14's would be very pleased to hear from anyone who is interested in joining their team. Training is held at Riverside Park on Wednesday's. Please contact the manager;

David Tribbeck on 07712627827.
Visit our website; southsideafc.org.uk

BOOK of the WEEK

CMJ: A Cricketing Life
By Christopher Martin-Jenkins

Sportsbookofthemonth.com
price: £15.10, saving 40% on rrp

Given the game's multiple idiosyncrasies, it seems that cricket is, rightly, among the sports most heavily populated with abbreviated, but easily-recognisable, forms of players, officials and reporters' names (Johnners, Beefy, Aggers etc).

Naturally enough, it follows that one of the most famed TMS characters should name his memoirs *CMJ*.

Christopher Martin-Jenkins, he of the mellifluous voice, fine cricket writing and sometimes willing foil for co-commentators such as Henry Blofeld, has been around cricket for all of his working life.

His memoirs are laden with tales of cricketing folk and their occasionally quirky ways, but he's not afraid to express opinions on matters as far-ranging as television's obsession with football, the changing nature of Ashes duels and the debilitating impact match-fixing is having on the game.

Educated at Marlborough College and Cambridge (where he was a contemporary of historian David Starkey), CMJ appeared destined to become a cricket writer from the moment he was interviewed by EW Swanton for the post as assistant to the deputy editor of *The Cricketer*.

A talented all-rounder (he scored his first 50 at Lord's in 1972), CMJ later moved to the BBC where he would eventually become a household name.

The list of people (and accompanying anecdotes or pithy, descriptive one-liners) with whom he has worked reads like a sporting *Who's Who*.

Several, such as Colin Milburn and Henry Blofeld, stand out, the former for almost drinking a Mediterranean cruise ship dry, the latter for being Blowers – a man who invariably turned up at the start of a new cricket season and announced he had fallen in love.

Again. Though primarily a sports fan (he's a keen golfer), CMJ despairs at what he calls the "pernicious Premier League" which, he maintains, "tends to swallow all in its over-hyped wake."

He has a point – as he does when asking why the BBC has jettisoned its original brief to 'inform, educate and entertain' and replaced it with a celebrity-based obsession.

CMJ writes extraordinarily well, engaging readers with a lightness of touch which allows him to accommodate everything from amusing anecdotes to trenchant opinion.

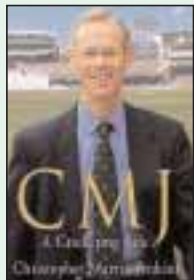
His memoir has the feel of a conversation held with someone during a cricket match, a chat alternating between tales of exasperation and stories of sporting prowess.

It's exactly as a memoir should be.

We've teamed up with Sports Book of the Month & have a copy of *CMJ* to give away.

To win this week's sports book, go to their website www.sportsbookofthemonth.com and answer the following question:

In which year did CMJ become MCC President?



WITH the season ticket prices now finally out, next season is starting to take shape.

I may be in a minority of one but I'm not worried about the increases in the slightest.

It's a sign that Southampton Football Club is serious in maintaining its rise and becoming a sustainable, viable business.

I'm often criticised for mentioning the rabble down the road in my articles, but it's hard not to when they're the ying to our yang.

We can't rightly mock them for their lack of any kind of sustainable business plan and then expect the Leihberrers to foot the bill for our Premiership adventure.

If we're to become the sort of football club we all aspire to be then it will cost.

And if we don't want to end up like Portsmouth, then price increases will become a necessity.

There is then, the obvious worry that the working man/woman will get priced out of football and it will become a soulless corporate vacuum, full of people who have the money but not necessarily the gumption to enjoy football.

The main issue here is that, in a recession, is anything a "must buy"?

When I was a season ticket holder, I went ten years without missing a single game.

A house and other such adult pursuits later, and football slipped down the ladder of priorities as I found more pressing uses for my hard earned cash.

Concession

I don't have a season ticket any more and there were five home games that I missed last season.

As such, a season ticket is just too much of a commitment when I can't guarantee I can make every home game.

It's a concession I've made – I can't get to every game at home but I still need to go to football on a regular basis.

Football is not compulsory.

Tribal yes, but compulsory no.

And as such, we have it in us to not go to games if finances require it.

We can't really complain about price increases when you could just not go to two or three games and not suffer the difference in prices from last year to this.

I'll just bypass a couple of games and budget my football that way.

The harsh truth is that, for many of us, football just isn't as much as priority as it once was.

The saturation of Sky coverage means that we can still miss a few games a season and still see Saints play live.

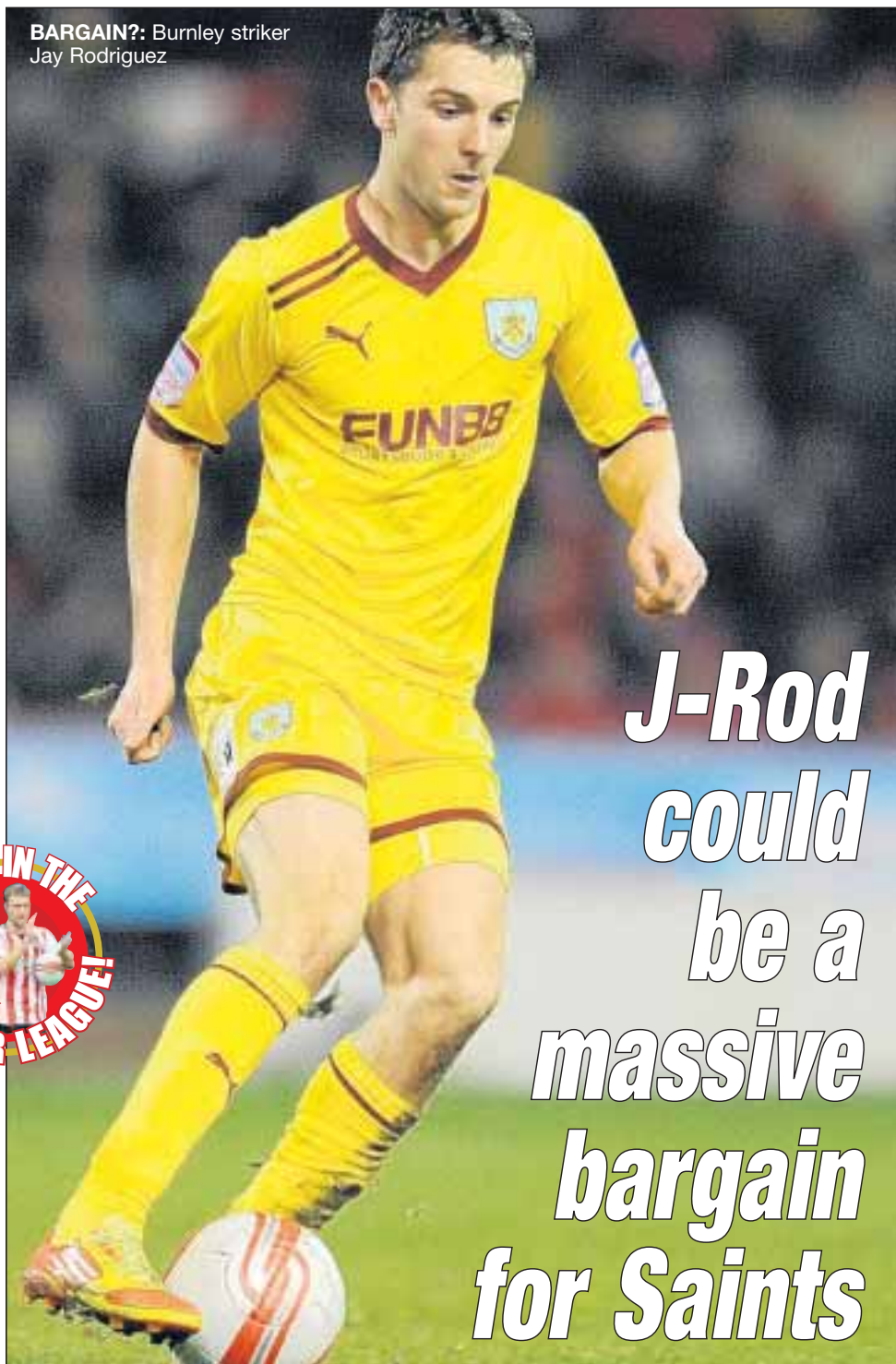
The live experience is fast becoming more of a treat rather than a right.

Lessons have to be learned from our last time in the Premiership and the players we look to sign.

The scatter gun approach of the Lowe era reaped some benefits when we unearthed a few diamonds at a bargain price.

But when you remember that transfers in equalled transfers out, and bear in mind we had more than a few big money transfers out, we must have given away

BARGAIN?: Burnley striker Jay Rodriguez



an awful lot of players.

We simply have to be more careful with our money.

The crazy season would seem to already be with us with £7m being quoted for Jay Rodriguez from Burnley.

It may be a huge sum but Rodriguez is a highly rated young English starlet whose value might increase threefold should he get Premiership experience and do well.

Who would have thought that Andy Carroll would be worth £35m after his first season at Newcastle?

I still don't think he is, but I don't set transfer standards.

Clubs with more money than sense do.

Jay Rodriguez could prove to be a massive bargain.

What is certain is that Saints have to look at players other clubs aren't.

Massive rewards

As such, Raidi Jaidi's role in seeking young African talent could prove to be the club's shrewdest move yet.

Previous World Cups have shown that Africa is a hotbed of raw young talent.

Tap into it and the rewards could be massive.

In short, I don't care if Saints put the prices of tickets up as long as the ambition they show in the ticket prices is reflected in the quality of the players they sign.

I'm not interested in former Bolton, Wolves or Blackburn players.

I'll be more excited at players that have slipped past the attention of the big boys and has them cursing their luck at missing the diamonds in the rough that Southampton have acquired to mould into the finished article.

The academy is in place, the search for young African talent is in full swing and the best squad in the Championship is about to test

Paine's World

The Saints legend's **EXCLUSIVE** column on all things football

FOR all the promoted clubs, this summer break will be a busy period for their respective managers.

It is a well-known fact that when promotion is achieved new faces will have to be brought in to help establish the team in its new surroundings.

Obviously, my thoughts turned to Southampton and what they may need now, as they progress into the Premier League.

Having seen little of them last season, it is difficult for me to categorically state where they need strengthening, although I have had plenty of advice from a number of supporters as to their requirements.

Where I can speak with authority, though, is on the Premier League.

Fortunately, for a number of years, I have been able to watch every top-flight match over a weekend here in South Africa and been able to judge the strengths and weaknesses of many players.

Specifically, I am looking at those who, for various reasons, have been given free transfers from their clubs.

Now, I'm the last person to suggest Saints should bring in this player or that player, but what I have done is observe who is available should Nigel Adkins be looking for another striker or two, on top of the likely arrival of Jay Rodriguez.

Most clubs like to have depth in that department, and there are three names that have emerged who might not necessarily start every game but could play their part in a long season.

BARGAIN

Michael Owen, who is still only 32, may be an option in the finishing department.

Although injuries curtailed his availability at Manchester United, a fit Owen, whose goalscoring record is second to none, may be an option.

His statement concerning his future suggests he still believes playing at the highest level is not beyond his capabilities.

Looking at his achievements, if he could produce just a third of the success he has had at a number of big clubs then his signing would be a bargain.

Owen started his career as a teenager at Liverpool, scoring 158 goals in 297 appearances, before he moved to Spain to play at Real Madrid.

In the 2004/05 season in La Liga he still managed 14 goals in 40 appearances.

His £16m move to

Newcastle in 2005 never quite lived up to expectations, due to injury problems, scoring 30 goals in 79 games over a four-year period.



AVAILABLE ON FREE TRANSFERS: Emile Heskey, above, and Michael Owen, left.

Sir Alex Ferguson then signed him on a free transfer in 2009, with the Scotsman appreciating Owen's goalscoring ability.

In three seasons at Old Trafford, he only competed in 52 games but still managed a creditable 17 goals.

During his period in the game, his international career blossomed and, in 89 appearances for England, he scored a remarkable 40 goals.

Injuries apart, he would have gone on to be the country's greatest ever goalscorer.

Perhaps if Saints are looking for another big target man, Aston Villa's Emile Heskey may come into consideration.

The 34-year-old, who has been released by Villa, joined the club in 2009 from Wigan.

He has been plagued by Achilles problems last season, but returned to action in the latter part of the campaign.

Heskey made his name at Leicester, where he signed as a trainee, scoring 46 times in 175 appearances, before moving to Liverpool for £11m in 2000.

His four-year stay at Anfield gave him a return of 60 goals in 177 appearances.

Transfers to Birmingham and Wigan followed, before his last move to the Midlands.

A big, bustling striker, who could lead the line and bring others into the game, Heskey never quite lived up to his potential. But, if fit, he could come in and do a job.

RELEGATED

Perhaps his international career sums up that potential and the question mark that has hung over him throughout his time in the game – in 62 full caps, he managed just a miserly seven goals.

Nigerian Yakubu may have played his last game for a relegated Blackburn Rovers.

The 29-year-old has declared that he is not keen to ply his trade in the Championship.

In a disappointing season for Rovers, the one bright element was the goalscoring form shown by the former Everton striker.

His 17 league goals, including two in a 3-2 victory over Manchester

United, coupled with his availability would surely bring a few interested clubs to the table.

A transfer fee would be required here, though, as Yakubu still has two years left to run on his Ewood Park contract.

But he is an established Premier League striker, and it doesn't surprise me that newly-promoted Reading are showing an interest.

Any club securing his services will also take note that his country, Nigeria, left him out of their squad for their forthcoming international matches.

Yakubu is currently in close neighbours Zimbabwe, playing in former Portsmouth teammate Benjani's testimonial match.

As I indicated, the players mentioned above are just my observations on the current transfer market.

All supporters will be keenly looking forward to the upcoming season and waiting in anticipation for new faces to arrive – and Saints fans will be no different.

I will also be waiting for the release of the fixtures for next season, which are due on June 18.

Hopefully Saints' first home game will bring some quality opposition, as I intend to be there for kick-off.



Non-league News

Matthews' tough call

FORMER Eastleigh goalkeeper Jason Matthews has revealed that he turned down the chance of an emotional return to Weymouth in order to complete his move to rivals Dorchester Town.

The veteran keeper, pictured below, joined Blue Square Bet South outfit Dorchester early last month, becoming Phil Simkin's first signing of the close season.

His old club Weymouth were also keen to sign the 37-year-old, who left the Bob Lucas Stadium for Eastleigh four years ago, but Matthews opted for the higher-league Magpies.

"It was a bit of a tough decision as I could have gone back to Weymouth," admitted Matthews, who recently left Bath City. "But I want to play at the highest standard possible."

"When you've got a club like Weymouth close to your heart, it's always a tough decision, but the Conference South is where I want to play."

With fellow Magpies keeper Alan Walker-Harris recovering from a broken leg, Matthews is almost certain to don the No1 jersey when the new season gets under way.



Webb quits City for sea

DANNY Webb has left Salisbury City and joined Blue Square Bet South rivals Dover Athletic on a one-year deal.

The 28-year-old former Southend, Hull and Cambridge United centre-back has signed a one-year deal at Crabble.

Webb – son of former Chelsea and Saints star David – started out with Saints and went on to make more than 100 Football League appearances between 2000 and 2007.

Poole-born Webb, pictured above, was converted from a targetman to commanding centre-half after scoring nine goals in 33 appearances during AFC Wimbledon's march to the Ryman Premier title.

He began the first of three spells with Salisbury in 2008 and also spent time at Bath City in the BSB Premier.



Youth help

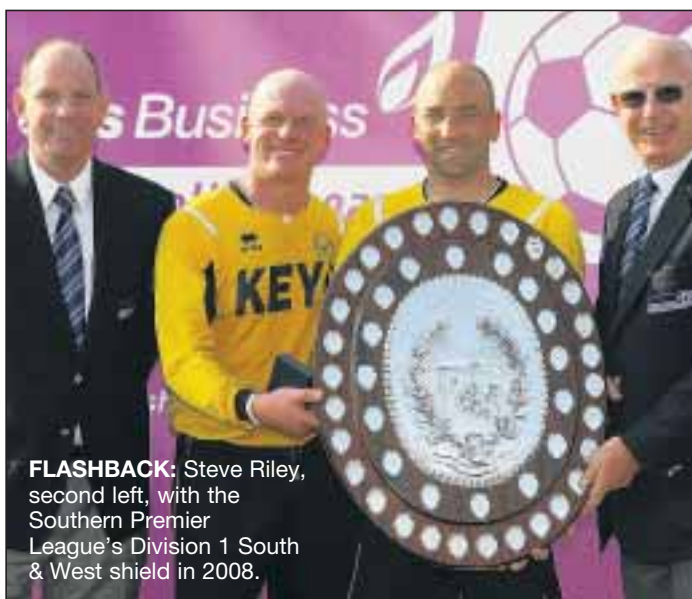
SALISBURY City are looking to make two additions to their youth development set-up.

The Whites need a dedicated manager to take over their successful under-14 team. They are also on the lookout for an FA Level 3-qualified coach to work with the youth teams one evening a week.

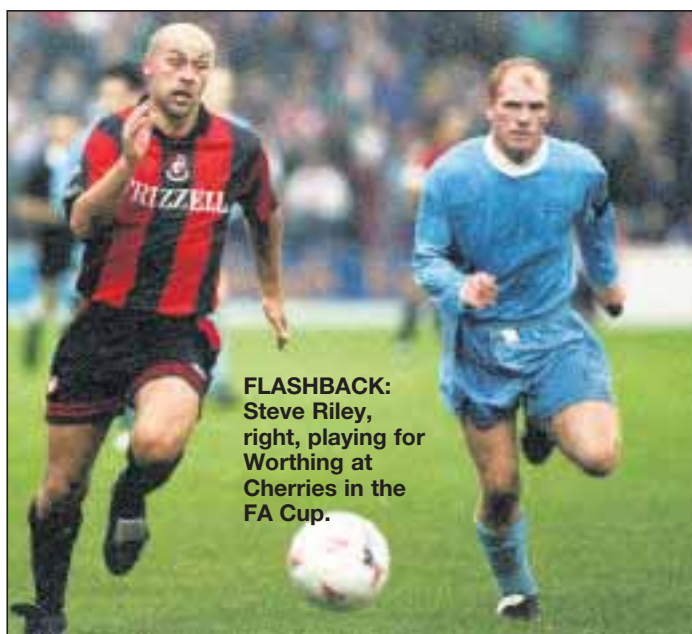
Anyone interested should contact Mike Cooper, Salisbury's head of youth development, at michael.cooper@salisburycity-fc.co.uk.

Non-league Football

THE FOOTBALL LIFE



FLASHBACK: Steve Riley, second left, with the Southern Premier League's Division 1 South & West shield in 2008.



FLASHBACK: Steve Riley, right, playing for Worthing at Cherries in the FA Cup.



Mr Goals heads raft

UNDER previous boss Stuart Ritchie, AFC Totton were always synonymous with scoring bucketloads of goals, writes WENDY GEE.

And with Richard Gillespie unveiled as the first of new manager Steve Riley's four summer signings this week, it looks as if that's the way it will stay.

Gillespie, left, was nicknamed 'Mr Goals' during his

Bashley days, having netted 173 times in 308 appearances for the New Forest club before stepping up to the Conference South with Eastleigh.

He scored 30 times in 111 appearances for Ian Baird's men and, although only two of those came last season, he rediscovered his scoring touch during two loan spells with Bashley, banging in seven in 16 starts – including

the opener in the 4-4 Easter Monday classic against Totton.

Riley, who has spent the last seven years in charge of Bashley, is delighted to have secured Gillespie on a one-year deal following his release by Eastleigh.

"I seem to get the best out of Gilly," he said. "He always scores goals and, if you give him the ser-

THERE is no hiding AFC Totton manager Steve Riley's passion for the game, as you would expect of a 46-year-old Geordie yet to hang up his boots.

After a lengthy non-league career on the south coast following 23 years in the Royal Navy, Riley has embarked on his second managerial job, having left Bashley for Evo-Stik Southern Premier rivals Totton last week.

As a formidable centre-half, he played for Fareham Town, Basingstoke Town, Havant, Worthing, Newport (IoW) and Fleet Town.

The Testwood Stadium is the latest stop in the football life of Riley. It could easily have been spent north of the border. Riley

worked in Glasgow after leaving Newcastle-upon-Tyne for the Royal Navy as a 16-year-old.

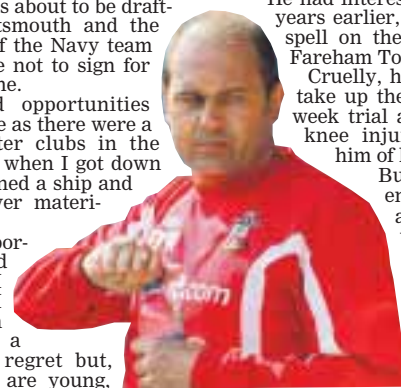
And he was invited for a trial by Dunfermline, aged 19, after impressing against them for the Navy.

"I trained with them and eventually got offered a contract by Jim Leishman, their manager at the time [and current director of football]," he recalls.

"But I was about to be drafted to Portsmouth and the manager of the Navy team advised me not to sign for Dunfermline."

"He said opportunities would arise as there were a lot of better clubs in the south. But when I got down there, I joined a ship and nothing ever materialised."

"The opportunity had gone and I wished I had taken it. It is a source of regret but, when you are young,



Simon Walter

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sometimes you listen to the wrong advice. That is the way football is."

Riley still went on to enjoy an impressive career in the lower leagues, most notably at Worthing under former Northern Ireland star Gerry Armstrong in the early 1990s.

There he played alongside Saints coach Dean Wilkins, below, AFC Bournemouth assistant manager Shaun Brooks as well as former Spurs and Glasgow Rangers striker Mark Falco.

Pompey legend Guy Whittingham is another former teammate, for the Combined Services, but the highlight of Riley's playing career was reaching

'It was a wrench to leave Bashley – it's all happened very quickly'

ing the FA Cup first round with Worthing in November 1994.

Managed by another future Totton boss in

John Robson, Worthing took the lead against AFC Bournemouth at Dean Court, before losing 3-1.

Playing as a sweeper, Riley impressed Cherries boss Mel Machin and not for the first time.

He had interested Machin five years earlier, during his first spell on the south coast at Fareham Town.

Cruelly, he was unable to take up the offer of a two-week trial after suffering a knee injury that robbed him of his sharpness.

But he still enjoyed his time at Cams Alders under Saints legend Cliff Huxford, who remains one of the biggest influences on his career.

"Cliff had so

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Non-league Football

OF RILEY ...

much enthusiasm – he would join in training and throw himself into all sorts of tackles,” smiles Riley, who is cut of similar cloth.

He was registered as a player throughout his seven years as Bashley manager and that will continue to be the case at the Testwood Stadium.

“If our reserve team manager, Jim Thorne, doesn’t mind, it would be good to bring some experience to that squad and occasionally bring up the average age,” he smiled.

“But it will be as a holding midfielder – my hamstrings aren’t good enough to chase the ball over the top anymore!”

Riley lives with his family in Netley and works as a self-employed PE teacher in Sholing and Godalming, as well as being busy as Totton’s manager.

“It was a bit of a wrench to leave Bashley after seven years and it’s all happened very quickly, but I’m gradually putting faces to names,” he says.

“There’s lots of work to do in terms of getting fresh players in, but everyone I’ve met at the club has tremendous enthusiasm and my mother-in-law’s been telling me about all the good comments on the Internet forums.

“I’m still meeting staff and the secretary John Heskins is busy getting some pre-season games together.”

Having managed Bashley in the Southern Premier for several years, Riley already has a good understanding of the squad he has inherited from Stuart Ritchie and Sean New, who followed the Stags’ former sponsor Jim Fallon to Havant & Waterlooville last month.

And he has already established a good working relationship with his Sunderland-supporting chairman Paul Wallace.

“We’ve got a good mixture of youth and experience,” he said. “It was a shame the way the season finished, they should have won that play-off final at Oxford City.”

“There have been rumours about our friends down the road [wanting players], but we’ve got a nucleus under contract for next season.

“I’m trying to freshen the squad up, it’s a strong league and it’s about continuing the work that’s already been done.”

With Fallon’s cash now being pumped into Havant & Waterlooville, Riley will be working to a tighter budget than his predecessor.

“There are a few changes and we have to cut our cloth accordingly, but I’m really looking forward to the challenge,” he continued. “The fans are passionate and the club

wants to get things right on and off the field, where I’m assured people will work their socks off. “My job is

t o

ensure we get players who want to play for Totton. There’s no point in having players who aren’t loyal and committed.

“It will be difficult to emulate the achievements of last season, but the club has a lot of potential and is run by good people.”

Riley, who has a 14-year-old nephew on the books of Newcastle United, will also be giving more opportunities to Totton’s exciting crop of young players.

“We have a very good youth set-up and we’re looking to develop that. The Southern Premier is very physical and youngsters at that level have to be able to handle themselves.

“But if they have a big heart they can do OK. Playing in the Southern Premier is something for them to really aim for.”

GOOD RELATIONSHIP:
Paul Wallace.

of new arrivals

Luke Whitley, who, between them, made nearly 80 Southern Premier starts last term.

Allen, a lion-hearted midfielder, was Riley’s skipper at Bashley, having previously played for Winchester City and Dorchester Town.

Whitley, a versatile former Portsmouth YTS defender, was previously part of Tom Killick’s all-conquering

Wessex League squad at Poole.

Riley’s other signing, goalkeeper Gareth Barfoot, needs no introduction to Stags fans having been a regular for Totton during their rise to Southern One South & West prominence.

The 30-year-old has spent the last two seasons with Eastleigh, but found himself playing second fiddle to on-

loan Saints youngster Jack Dovey last term.

The Southampton-born former BAT, Gosport and Christchurch stopper remains a popular figure at the Testwood Stadium.

And he will be welcomed back with open arms to replace James Bittner, who returned to Forest Green Rovers at the end of his loan spell.

NEW MAN IN CHARGE: Steve Riley.

Basingstoke open day

BASINGSTOKE Town are organising an open day at their Camrose Ground home on Sunday, July 15.

It includes the chance for fans to watch the first team train, meet the players, have photographs taken with them and take a look behind the scenes.

There will also be a match played between two mixed teams of fans (over-16s) and players. The cost to play is £40 per person, including a meal after the match.

Events kick off at 11am and admission is by voluntary donation.

All funds raised will go directly to first-team boss Jason Bristow to help fund pre-season preparations for the forthcoming Blue Square Bet South campaign.

Town trial dates ...

THE first trial dates for Basingstoke Town’s under Academy age teams have been confirmed.

The recruitment of talented players for the three feeder age-groups to the academy – under-14 elite, under-15 elite and under-16 elite – will start on Saturday, June 23 and Saturday, June 30 at a venue to be confirmed.

For more information or to book a trial please contact Paul Waller, director of youth, on 01256 327303 or at wallerp1@btinternet.com.

Kit sponsor

GE HAMBLE’S reserves are on the lookout for a new kit sponsor for the upcoming Wyvern Combination League season.

Anyone interested is urged to contact the Planemakers’ second string boss Dave Herbert on 07825 707874 or webmaster Gary Wilmore on 07818 653376.

Poole trials

POOLE Town are holding trials for their academy (16-18 year olds) and reserves on June 9 and 16.

The trials will take place at Upton Recreation Ground from 10am until 12 noon.

Email Nick on 07825 427733 or email him at nick.spetch@poole-town-fc.co.uk.

Brock job

BROCKENHURST’S football secretary Mike Prince is stepping down due to work commitments.

Anyone interested in filling the post should contact Pete Lynes, chairman of the Sydenhams One club, as soon as possible on 07908 109696. Training will be given if required.

DAILY ECHO AND PINK - ALWAYS BEST FOR NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

Non-league News

City go for Canadian defender

NEWLY-PROMOTED Sydenhams Premier champions Winchester City are looking to add another Isle of Wight talent to their ranks.

But centre-back Patrick Wilson is not an Islander born and bred.

The Canadian central defender has had a globe-trotting career, taking in stops in the USA, Belgium and Hungary en route to pitching in in Ryde and playing for Cowes Sports in Sydenhams Division One last term.

Winchester already have several loW-based players on their books – notably ex-Saint Tom Dunford, Charlie Smeeton and Alek Przespolewski – and when owner Paul McCarthy and manager Guy Butters caught wind of Wilson's pedigree, they didn't hesitate to invite him for trials.

One showing was enough to convince them that he possesses the quality to help them make a big impact on their return to the Southern Division One South & West next term.

Wilson's footballing story began in Canada where he played for the Erin Mills Soccer Club in the Canadian Soccer League.

He went on to study at Cornerstone University in Michigan, USA, where he led the Golden Eagles from centre-back from 2005-07.



GUY BUTTERS

He was honoured with the newcomer of the year award in his first season and the team won a 2006 championships under his leadership.

Having completed his studies, Wilson travelled to Europe in the summer of 2008, signing for a third division team in Belgium.

From there he was offered a professional contract with Hungarian second division side FC Dunaujvaros.

Along the way he accrued a teaching degree in physical education and, on arriving on the Isle of Wight, took up a position of education officer/course tutor for AFC Bournemouth's Community Sports Trust which has a centre on the Island run by Paul Topping.

Wilson dipped his toes into loW football with Island League side Newchurch before joining Cowes Sports, for whom he made 21 Wessex appearances last term.

"He certainly made a difference last year," said Cowes secretary Glynn Skinner. "I hope he doesn't leave us, but we don't pay anyone, so there's not a lot we could do to stop him."

Winchester owner McCarthy said: "Everyone told us how good Patrick was, so we asked him to send us his CV and we got him over for training towards the end of last season."

"We liked what we saw and one session was enough for Guy (Butters) to know he's got plenty about him."

"He's a real athlete, he's mature and he comes with a good pedigree having played at a decent level."

Non-league Football



Poole are the team to beat – McCarthy



HEARTBREAK: Action from Poole Town's (red/white) play-off loss to Gosport.

WINCHESTER City's Paul McCarthy would not rule out back-to-back titles for his promoted Sydenhams Wessex League champions.

But although the City owner will be pulling out all the stops to win the Southern Division One South & West at the first time of asking, he ranks Tom Killick's beaten play-off finalists Poole Town as favourites for the crown.

Poole, who won three successive Wessex titles prior to promotion, announced their arrival back on the Southern League scene by finishing runners-up to champions Bideford last term.

But having edged out Hungerford Town in the play-off semi-final, they crashed at the final hurdle as Steve Claridge's last-gasp leveller set up Gosport Borough for a dramatic 3-1 extra-time victory at Tatnam.

"I've spoken to Tom and he's gutted," said McCarthy. "They came that close and it was a real emotional rollercoaster for them."

"Poole were the best team in it and they're my favourites to win the

Wendy Gee

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NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

league next season."

Gosport had scraped through their semi-final 1-0 against ten-man Sholing, who themselves experienced the heartbreak of losing the play-off final at home to Frome Town in 2010/11.

It meant three of last season's four semi-finalists were former Wessex clubs – and McCarthy foresees more south coast domination ahead.

"I'd say Poole are next season's title favourites, but Sholing won't be far behind," he predicted.

"I get on really well with (Sholing boss) Dave Diaper. He's a great bloke and very helpful."

"Like Poole, they went through the turmoil of getting close to promotion and missing out and it must have been draining."

"But I'd expect both Poole and Sholing to be up there again next year and hopefully we'll be with them."

"But we'd probably start behind those two. They'd be ahead of us with the bookies."

According to McCarthy, the minimum requirement for Winchester next season will be to maintain their Southern League status.

"First we have to make sure we stay in the league, which we undoubtedly will," he said.

"Then we'd look at making the play-offs and hopefully winning them, and in an ideal world we'd win the league and automatic promotion."

"Everyone's saying we'll finish in the top four or five, but it won't be easy."

"There's a lot more travelling involved which makes it more difficult to keep the team together."

"Hopefully we won't lose anyone, but there are a few players who want their wages increased because of the work they're going to miss."

Although the league constitution has still to be ratified, the provisional Southern One South & West line-up sees Winchester joined by Hellenic runners-up Shortwood United and Western League champions Merthyr Town in the rise from Step 5.

Dropping down from Step 3 are relegated trio Cirencester Town, Evesham United and Swindon Supermarine.

Having presided over Winchester's

galling relegation three years ago when they staged a miracle escape only to be docked points for fielding an ineligible player, McCarthy is proud to see the cathedral city club back where they belong.

"It's going to be a great season. I can't wait," he smiled. "We're all up for it and really looking forward to the challenge."

"Our pitch will be much better next season. We're lucky enough to have a groundman, Ian, who also works for Saints and he's been really helpful."

"The surface has to be like a carpet because we've got Saints, Pompey and Bournemouth coming to us in pre-season, and they won't come again if it's not."

"It's costing us a bit to do, but that's all part of going up. What we need now is to get in a bit more sponsorship to help pay for it."

"As everyone knows, non-league's a very expensive way of life, but we love it."

"Bernie (McCarthy's wife and Winchester chairperson/secretary) enjoys every minute. She's involved wholeheartedly and has worked really hard to help take the club forward."

NON-LEAGUE STORY TO TELL? EMAIL wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

Non-league Football

Barker determined to maintain standards

THERE will be no talk of titles and trophies from newly-appointed Romsey Town boss Danny Barker.

The biggest gift he can bring to the Bypass Ground is to continue the good work of his predecessor Wayne Mew and keep steering the Sydenhams Premier club in the right direction.

A well-known face on the local non-League circuit, former Pompey first-year pro Barker played for Basingstoke Town, Andover and AFC Totton before cutting his managerial teeth with Colden Common, whom he led to the Hampshire Premier League title.

He assisted ex-Bashley star Jeremy Stagg in a brief spell in charge of Wessex outfit Lymington Town before returning to the Hampshire PL with Sporting Bishops Waltham.

Barker, though, still hankered after playing and, having donned his boots again for AFC Stoneham, had two brief spells at Romsey, combining a playing role with that of assisting Mew and his right-hand man Stuart Long.

But pressure of work meant he was unable to fully commit to the club and it is only now, after a change of job, that the Chandler's Ford-based salesman can properly concentrate on football again.

"Wayne and Stuart (assistant manager Stuart Long) have done a great job over the last couple of years and if I could have half of that success I would be delighted," said the former Colden Common and Sporting Bishop's Waltham boss.

"My remit is not to talk about progressing the club any further from where we are now.

"At this time Romsey are a very well established Wessex League club and my ambition is to prove myself as a manager, maintain the standards that have been set and keep the club around mid-table, well away from the relegation fight."

Under Mew, Romsey finished a fine eighth last season and, although Barker wouldn't go as far as to say they over-achieved, he knows that, realistically, the club do not have the resources to go much higher.



KEY PLAYER:
Romsey Town's
Ryan Long.

Dan expects stars to stay

DANNY Barker is hoping to keep the bulk of last season's Romsey Town team together.

"There's no guarantee I'll retain all of them, but a lot of them are making the right noises and are keen to have a look in pre-season," he said.

"I'm confident we won't lose many, but we may lose one or two.

"There will always be interest in strikers like Simon De'Ath and Ryan Long and good defenders like Ross Gregory and Jamie Thoroughgood.

"They're the types I'd like to keep.

"I'd also like to look to the future and introduce some younger players to the club.

"We'll be looking out for players who can make the step up from lower divisions and if we mix them with some of the senior lads, we will hopefully have a side that can keep us in a comfortable position next season and maybe have a reasonable cup run.

"There's a nice family feel at Romsey and I want to build on that team spirit and keep football as a hobby because that's what it is. I want the lads to enjoy it.

"Credit where credit's due, Wayne did a really good job here. It's just a shame I couldn't play more for him.

"But I'm delighted (chairman) Ken Jacobs has showed belief in me by giving me the job."

Goalkeeping coach Steve Hollick is staying at Romsey on as one of Barker's two assistant managers.

The other is Carl Bennett, who worked with Barker at Colden Common and Bishops Waltham.

With ex-Saint Francis Benali moving on, Ian Snelling will co-manage Romsey's reserves with senior player Ben Andrews.

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the leading local lights at Step 5.

"Speaking from where I live in Chandler's Ford, there are only a handful of Wessex sides around that location and we've got a lot to offer players who are not yet ready for the Southern League," he said.

"For local players, we're the Wessex club on their doorstep and that's our selling point.

"We can give promising players games and if they're ready to move on in the next couple of years, then they will go with our blessing.

"We'll do everything we can to get them to that level.

"I'm a firm believer in moving players on if they're good enough.

"I want players to test themselves and I will stick by that and try and progress them in the right way."

Barker himself received a good footballing education as an apprentice and first-year pro with Portsmouth before moving on to Basingstoke Town, where he was part of the memorable FA Cup run of 1997/98 under Ernie Howe.

He was a double Wessex League winner with Ken Cunningham-Brown's Andover in 2001 and 2002, playing alongside the likes of Andy Forbes, Lloyd Webber, Matt Bicknell and Shaun Dyke, and captained the Lions to Hampshire FA Senior Cup success over Havant & Waterlooville at

The Dell in May 2001.

He also had a spell playing for Stuart Ritchie at AFC Totton and will use his old boss for inspiration as he takes on his first outright managerial role at Wessex level.

"When I think back to Stuart Ritchie and Glenn Burnett, they started managing at this sort of age and I feel ready to take on the challenge," he said. "I've never managed on my own in the Wessex League and I want to have a go.

"I've cut my teeth as a manager in the Hampshire League and if I put that experience and my football career together, hopefully I can do a half decent job."

Non-league News

Taylor in charge

SYDENHAMS Wessex One outfit Pewsey Vale have named Lewis Taylor as their new manager.

The 45-year-old, who has been vice-chairman for two years, stepped in as interim team boss following the departure of Adi Holcombe last month.

He has now been appointed on a permanent basis alongside assistants Craig Wall and Darren Tapper.

Vale finished 11th last term and Taylor said: "I don't want to go setting any ridiculous targets like that we're going to win the league, but we do want to try and finish higher than we did last season.

"We've had some good young players come through and we want to carry on developing those and bring in a few more experienced heads to help them out.

"I'm staying as vice-chairman and I'll have to pass on a few of my responsibilities to concentrate on the football."

Cha exit

STRIKER Chamal Fenelon has left Havant & Waterlooville and rejoined Ryman Division One South club Horsham.

Fenelon had two brief spells in Horsham colours in 2007/08 before moving on to a number of clubs, including Havant, Worthing and Sydenhams Premier outfit Hordean, for whom he scored four goals in 13 Wessex appearances on a dual signing from the Hawks last term.

New boy

FORMER Salisbury City marksman Bradley Gray has left Swindon Supermarine to join last season's beaten Southern One South & West play-off semi-finalists Hungerford Town.

The ex-Leyton Orient forward netted nine times in 30 appearances for Supermarine last season following spells with Salisbury, who released him by mutual consent in October 2010, and Forest Green Rovers.

Move on

CHRISTCHURCH are on the lookout for a new reserve team manager after Robbie Elliott and Ryan Chad decided to move on.

The Hurn Bridge club, who pride themselves on youth development, play in the Wyvern Combination League Premier.

Anyone interested should contact chairman Mark Duffy on 07505 370906 or at mark.duffy@ntworld.com.

Non-league Football

Non-league News

Super sub's Town switch

POOLE Town super sub Steve Smith has left Tatnam to join Evo-Stik Southern One South & West rivals Wimborne Town. Despite making 142 of his 265 Poole appearances off the bench, Smith, below, netted an impressive 143 goals for Tommy Killick's men after joining them from Blandford United in 2007.

And Wimborne boss Steve Cuss – Killick's former assistant at Tatnam – is well aware of what the frontman has to offer.

"I worked with him for four seasons," said Cuss. "Steve Smith has a good attitude and is a proven finisher."

"He's a very good player and a pleasure to work with."

"Steve has been looking for a chance to prove himself in the Southern League and we are going to give him that chance. He's an important signing for us."

The Magpies, meanwhile, have appointed Ed Taylor as their new reserve team boss.

The 50-year-old community football coach will also manage one of Wimborne's two under-18 sides next term.

"My job will be to develop young players and provide a link between the first team, reserves and under-18s," he said.

Prize winner

LUKE Burbidge (manager's player) and Michael White (players' player) scooped the two main prizes at Hamworthy United's end-of-season awards.

The Hammers will begin pre-season training on Tuesday, July 3 at the County Ground (7pm).

Potential new players for their Sydenhams Premier, Magna Dorset Premier and Dorset Youth League Division One sides should contact club secretary Peter Gallop on 07897 959270 for more information.

Wright stuff

FORMER Basingstoke Town striker Ben Wright has signed for Blue Square Bet Premier outfit Forest Green Rovers on a two-year deal.

The 23-year-old, below, scored 18 goals for Green's divisional rivals Braintree Town last season – including the first in a 2-0 win over FGR at the New Lawn.

After catching the eye for Basingstoke as a teenager, Wright – who hails from the Kings Furlong area of Basingstoke – signed for Hampton & Richmond Borough from where he joined Football League outfit Peterborough United for an undisclosed fee in January 2009.

He moved to Crawley Town, again for an undisclosed fee, in August 2010, and a year later pitched up at Braintree.



Sholing and Eastleigh set for pre-season battle

SHOLING will host a tasty pre-season friendly against Ian Baird's ambitious Blue Square Bet South outfit Eastleigh on Tuesday, July 31 (7.45pm).

Before that, Dave Diaper's Evo-Stik Division One South & West promotion hopefuls have lined up trips to four Sydenhams Wessex Premier sides – Romsey Town (July 17),

Christchurch (July 19), GE Hamble (July 24) and Blackfield & Langley (July 28).

PRE-SEASON FRIENDLIES 2012

Saturday, July 7
Sporting BW v Fareham Town (on 3G pitch at Wide Lane, 3.00)

Wednesday, July 11
Winchester City v Salisbury City (7.45)

Thursday, July 12
Moneyfields Res v Fareham Town Res (6.30)

Saturday, July 14
QK Southampton v Fareham Town (3.00)

Tuesday, July 17
Frome Tn v Salisbury City (7.45)
Romsey Town v Sholing XI (7.45)

Thursday, July 19
Christchurch v Sholing (7.45)
Poole Town v Eastleigh

Saturday, July 21
Arlesey Tn v Salisbury City (3.00)
Basingstoke Town v Reading (3.00)
Winchester City v SAINTS XI (3.00)

Tuesday, July 24
Brackley Tn v Salisbury City (7.45)
GE Hamble v Sholing (7.45)
Pagham v Fareham Town (7.45)

Friday, July 27
Bemerton HH v Frome Town

Saturday, July 28
Blackfield & L v Sholing XI (3.00)
Calne Tn v Fareham Town (3.00)
Godalming v Basingstoke Tn (3.00)
Salisbury City v Reading (3.00)
Winchester City v AFC Bournemouth XI (3.00)
North Leigh v Eastleigh

Tuesday, July 31

Poole Town v Salisbury City (7.45)
Sholing v Eastleigh (7.45)

Friday, August 3
Poole Tn v Basingstoke Tn (7.45)
Salisbury City v Swindon Tn (7.45)

Saturday, August 4
Winchester City v Eastleigh

Tuesday, August 7
Eastleigh v Oxford United

Saturday, August 11
Salisbury City v Portsmouth (3.00)

*To publicise pre-season friendlies please email details to echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Eastleigh keep an eye on the future

PREMIER LEAGUE PLAYER: Ex-Eastleigh defender Aaron Martin joined Saints in 2009.

Wendy Gee
wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk
NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

This will produce quantitative data to compare them with other trialists and players within the club.

In the afternoon they will get the chance to shine in an 11-a-side game watched by the first-team, reserve and youth coaching staff.

There will be a range of possible pathways for players who catch the eye.

Those who are ready will have the opportunity to earn paid contracts and compete in the Conference South.

Alternatively, players with potential will compete in the reserve squads which play in the Suburban Premier – against the might of AFC Wimbledon, Woking, Sutton United etc. – and Wyvern Premier divisions.

Both are strong squads which have already produced players capable of earning scholarships at pro clubs.

For the younger players Eastleigh can offer football education schemes, representing the club in the Football Conference Youth Alliance and studying at the same time.

Wednesday's trials will run between 10am and 4pm at Eastleigh's Silverlake Stadium in Stoneham Lane, SO50 9HT. The price is £50.

CONTACT THE ECHO SPORTSDESK ON 02380 424515

Non-league Football

Wilson set for Silverlake exit

IAN Baird has spoken of his deep regret at having to transfer-list one of Eastleigh's brightest young sparks.

Seventeen-year-old striker Sam Wilson has been placed on the list by the Blue Square Bet South club due to what Baird describes as "a situation beyond my control".

Having come off the bench to make his Conference South debut against Basingstoke on the opening day of last season, Wilson immediately caught the eye of professional scouts.

The former Wildern schoolboy and Portsmouth academy player was invited for a week's assessment by Premier League club Fulham last October and scored twice for the Cottagers' academy side on the morning of his 17th birthday.

Leicester City also invited him for training and there is no doubt in Baird's mind that Wilson is a player with huge potential.

But, judging by some of the comments posted on the fans' forum, there are doubts in some quarters that youngsters like Wilson will get a chance to shine among the many high-profile signings Eastleigh have made in their quest for promotion.

Baird, however, insisted: "Whatever anyone says, if Sam had come back in pre-season and continued to progress as he has done, he would have been part of the first-team squad."

"But unfortunately I've had to transfer list him due to circumstances beyond my control."

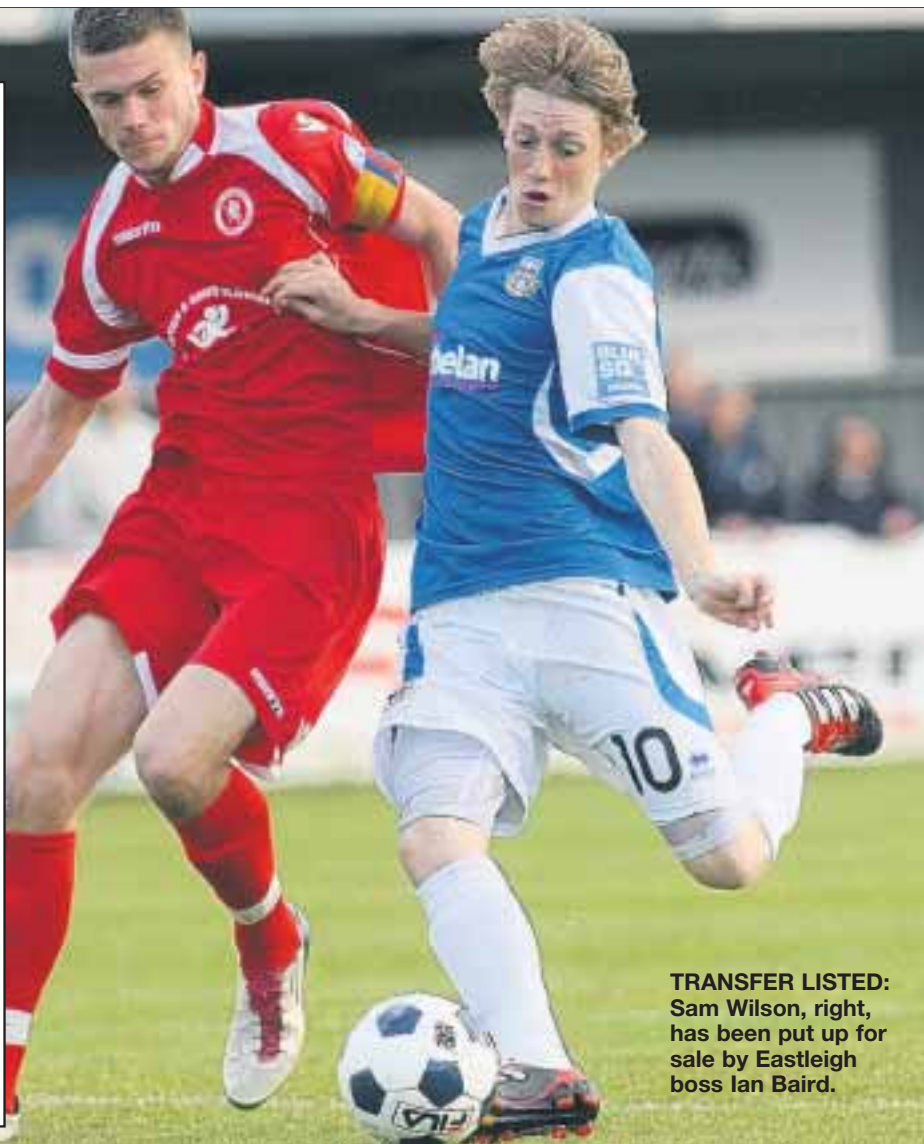
"I'm extremely disappointed to have had to do that."

"Sam is 17 and last season he progressed and progressed. The kid wants to learn and is desperate to improve."

"He's a lovely lad and it's been great to have him around."

"He would have had a bright future at Eastleigh."

The livewire frontrunner made six starts and 17 substitute appearances for the Spitfires' first team last term, scoring three goals. He penned a two-year deal in October.



TRANSFER LISTED: Sam Wilson, right, has been put up for sale by Eastleigh boss Ian Baird.

Pre-season tough tests

EASTLEIGH have announced their first draft of pre-season friendlies, headed by visits from newly-promoted Premier League side Reading and Oxford United's first eleven.

The action kicks off at the Silverlake Stadium with a Family Open Day on July 14 where fans can meet the players and watch them train.

Manager Ian Baird will then lead his squad to beaten Southern One South & West play-off finalists Poole Town for the opening friendly on Thursday, July 19.

That will be followed by two away fixtures at Oxfordshire side North Leigh (Saturday, July 28) and local rivals Sholing (Tuesday, July 31), who also play in the Southern One South & West.

On Saturday, August 4, Baird's men will visit Guy Butters's Sydenhams Wessex League champions Winchester City, who are building towards their first season as a Southern League club.

Home fans will get their first chance to the run rule over Baird's new-look squad on Tuesday, August 7 (7.45pm) when ex-Saints trainee Chris Wilder brings Oxford United's first-team squad to the Silverlake.



FLASHBACK: Chris Wilder during his Saints trainee days in the 1980s.

Eastleigh directors Stewart Donald and Neil Fox are well known at Oxford having sponsored the League Two club through their company Bridle Insurance.

A club statement said: "We are thrilled Chris Wilder has agreed to bring his first-team squad."

"This will be a fantastic opportunity for the Eastleigh players to test their mettle against a League side who narrowly missed out on the play-offs last term."

Pre-season draws to a conclusion with another home friendly at the Silverlake against Championship winners Reading.

Like last season, the Royals are expected to bring a mixture of first team, fringe and young players.

Eastleigh are also looking to set up a friendly against Steve Riley's new charges AFC Totton on July 23, but it has yet to be confirmed.

Saints offered to take a development squad to the Silverlake for a midweek friendly, but the Spitfires felt playing Oxford's League Two side was "too much of a temptation".

The club are still talking to Saints about the possibility of playing on another day.

Baird's men ready to head into the BSS unknown

IAN Baird's Eastleigh will have four new ports of call in the Blue Square Bet South next season.

The provisional league allocations for 2012/13 show Billericay Town and AFC Hornchurch promoted from the Ryman Premier Division, while Bath City and Hayes & Yeading United drop down from the Conference National.

Maidenhead United, who suffered relegation heartbreak despite beating Eastleigh 4-3 on the last day of the season, are unlikely to go down after all.

Due to financial troubles at Darlington and Kettering Town, they have been handed a reprieve pending confirmation at next week's (June 9) Conference AGM.

Both promoted Southern Premier teams - Brackley Town and Oxford City - have been placed in the Conference North.

Alex Pike's South & West play-off heroes Gosport Borough are one of five new teams joining AFC Totton

in the Evo-Stik Southern League Premier Division.

Division One South & West champions Bideford are also on their way up along with Bedworth United and St Neots Town from the Southern One Central.

Hemel Hempstead look like being spared relegation and cash-strapped Kettering have dropped two divisions instead of one after resigning from the Conference North.

Fleet Town - managed by former AFC Totton, Gosport and Bashley midfielder Craig Davis - are another club destined to earn a reprieve from relegation from the Southern Division One Central following the demise of Bedfont Town.

Sydenhams Wessex champions Winchester City join fellow promotees Shortwood United and Merthyr Town in Division One South & West along with relegated trio Cirencester Town, Evesham United and Swindon Supermarine.

Provisional league allocations for 2012/13

BLUE SQUARE BET PREMIER (STEP 1):

AFC Telford, Alfreton Town, Barrow, Braintree Town, Cambridge Utd, Dartford, Ebbsfleet Utd, Forest Green Rovers, Gateshead, Grimsby Town, Hereford Utd, Hyde, Kidderminster Harriers, Lincoln City, Luton Town, Macclesfield Town, Mansfield Town, Newport County, Nuneaton Town, Southport, Stockport County, Tamworth, Woking, Wrexham.

BLUE SQUARE BET SOUTH (STEP 2):

AFC Hornchurch, Basingstoke Town, Bath City, Billericay Town, Boreham Wood, Bromley, Chelmsford City, Dorchester Town, Dover Athletic, Eastbourne Borough, Eastleigh, Farnborough, Havant & Waterlooville, Hayes & Yeading, Maidenhead Utd, Salisbury City, Staines Town, Sutton Utd, Tonbridge Angels, Truro City, Welling Utd, Weston-super-Mare.

BLUE SQUARE BET SOUTH (STEP 2):

AFC Totton, Arlesey Town, Banbury Utd, Barwell, Bashley, Bedford Town, Bedworth Utd, Bideford, Cambridge City, Chesham Utd, Chippenham Town, Frome Town, Gosport Borough, Hemel Hempstead, Kettering Town, Hitchin Town, Leamington, Redditch Utd, St Albans City, St Neots Town, Stourbridge, Weymouth.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE, PREMIER DIVISION (STEP 3):

AFC Totton, Arlesey Town, Banbury Utd, Barwell, Bashley, Bedford Town, Bedworth Utd,

Bideford, Cambridge City, Chesham Utd, Chippenham Town, Frome Town, Gosport Borough, Hemel Hempstead, Kettering Town, Hitchin Town, Leamington, Redditch Utd, St Albans City, St Neots Town, Stourbridge, Weymouth.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE, DIVISION ONE SOUTH & WEST (STEP 4):

Abingdon Utd, Bishops Cleeve, Bridgwater Town, Cinderford Town, Cirencester Town, Clevedon Town, Didcot Town, Evesham Utd, Hungerford Town, Mangotsfield Utd, Merthyr Town, North Leigh, Paulton Rovers, Poole Town, Sholing, Shortwood Utd, Swindon Supermarine, Taunton Town, Tiverton Town, Wimborne Town, Winchester City, Yate Town.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE, DIVISION ONE CENTRAL (STEP 4):

AFC Hayes, Ashford Town (Middx), Aylesbury, Barton Rovers, Beaconsfield SYCOB, Biggleswade Town, Burnham, Chalfont St Peter, Chertsey Town, Daventry Town, Fleet Town, Godalming Town, Guildford City, Leighton Town, North Greenford Utd, Northwood, Royston Town, Rugby Town, Slough Town, Thatcham Town, Uxbridge, Woodford Utd.

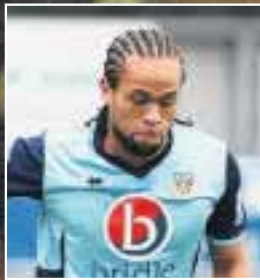
Non-league Football



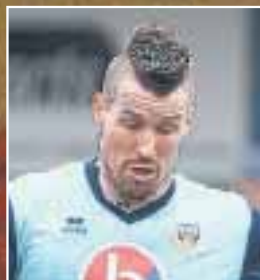
MITCHELL NELSON



MARVIN WILLIAMS



DAMIEN SCANNELL



LEE PEACOCK



GARY ELPHICK



PHIL APPIAH



DALE BINNS



JAI REASON



GLENN SOUTHAM



OSEI SANKOFA



LEE PHILLIPS



JACK DOVEY



DARYL McMAHON

17, and more to come!

EASTLEIGH have signed an astonishing SEVENTEEN players since Bridle Insurance pair Stewart Donald and Neil Fox arrived last November with grand plans to lead the club into the Football League.

And the bad news for their Blue Square Bet South rivals is that manager Ian Baird's signing spree is far from over!

In a week when left winger Dale Binns, central midfielder Jai Reason and 19-year-old ex-Saints goalkeeper Jack Dovey extended the list of summer arrivals to six, Baird confirmed there were at least three more names on his hit-list.

"I told the owners I needed a squad of 20 players and I've got 17 now," he said. "I need one or, possibly, two more strikers and another goalkeeper to compete with Jack (Dovey) now that Gareth Barfoot has moved back to Totton."

At a time when the nation is feeling the squeeze of the government's austerity measures, there is no sign of penny-pinching where Eastleigh's

BRIDLE SIGNINGS

Ali Fuseini (now Bromley)
Scott Rogers (released)
Damian Scannell (Eastleigh)
Mitchell Nelson (Eastleigh)
Bradley Bubb (loan ended)
Graeme Montgomery (now Boreham Wood)
Phil Appiah (Eastleigh)
Gary Elphick (Eastleigh)

Daryl McMahon (Eastleigh)
Lee Phillips (loan ended)
Lee Peacock (Eastleigh)
Marvin Williams (Eastleigh)
Glenn Southam (Eastleigh)
Dale Binns (Eastleigh)
Osei Sankofa (Eastleigh)
Jai Reason (Eastleigh)
Jack Dovey (Eastleigh)

Wendy Gee

wendy.gee@dailyecho.co.uk

NON-LEAGUE REPORTER

ambitious team-building project is concerned.

For Baird, this summer has had a 'fantasy football' feel about it – only, in his case, it's not a non-League dream team he's assembling, it's a real life squad purpose-built to take the Conference South by storm.

Eastleigh's fans knew Bridle meant business last December when, within weeks of arriving, they funded the return of gifted wideman Damian

Scannell from Dagenham & Redbridge.

Scannell still had six months of his Dagers contract to run and could easily have remained in the Football League earning the same, if not more, money than Eastleigh offered him.

But, like the many pedigree players who have since followed him to Stoneham Lane, he was blown away by Eastleigh's ambitions and Bridle's bold promise to deliver Conference National and, ultimately, League football to the Silverlake.

Former AFC Bournemouth defender Mitchell Nelson arrived hot on Scannell's heels and then came on-

loan Aldershot Town striker Bradley Bubb who quickly earned hero status with a hat-trick against old boss Paul Doswell's Sutton United.

Bubb went on to contribute ten goals in 18 league starts but, with a move to Macclesfield rumoured, is unlikely to return.

Not that Spitfires' fans should be unduly worried. Buoyed by Bridle's financial muscle, Baird has added two more strikers to the fold from opposite ends of the age spectrum. In 35-year-old ex-Manchester City frontman Lee Peacock they have someone who has been there, seen it and done in his career.

And in their first summer signing, 24-year-old Marvin Williams from Salisbury City, they have a player who has already had Football League experience with Millwall and Brentford and is still young and hungry enough to get there again.

January's arrival of former Leyton Orient midfielder Daryl McMahon from Boreham Wood brought experience and quality into Eastleigh's engine room, which has since been reinforced by ex-England C international Glen Southam from Dover and

22-year-old ex-Cambridge United and Crawley man Reason from Conference National outfit Braintree.

Left-winger Dale Binns – a Conference South winner with Lewes and Woking – offers pace and power out wide while, defensively, Eastleigh have strengthened with former Charlton and England youth player Osei Sankofa from Boreham Wood.

Sankofa adds competition to a back four already containing skipper Tom Jordan, supporters' player-of-the-season Andy Forbes, former Port Vale pro Michael Green and ex-Brighton centre-back Gary Elphick from Eastbourne Borough.

Inevitably there have been departures too – the latest being goalkeeper 30-year-old Barfoot who this week rejoined his old club Totton hot on the heels of Dovey agreeing a two-deal following his release from St Mary's.

Midfielder Scott Rogers, another Bridle signing, has left, as have Ian Herring and Jamie Brown, while Chris Flood, Danny Smith and Sam Wilson have been transfer listed.

Baird is still talking to ex-Farnborough midfielder Philip Appiah.

Non-league Football



ROBBIE ELLIOTT

Robbie's itching to get back into management

FORMER Winchester City and Winchester Castle boss Robbie Elliott is itching to get back into first-team management after a season running Christchurch reserves.

The Priory job came along shortly after he and Ryan Chard had parted company with Hampshire Premier League outfit Winchester Castle.

The pair led Christchurch's second string to a sixth-placed finish in the inaugural Wyvern Combination League Premier Division and thoroughly enjoyed working at the Dorset club.

But the duo – who together

run R&R Sports Coaching Limited – feel the time has come to step up again.

"As the new season dawns upon us, it's pastures new that we're looking for," Elliott explained.

"The agreement was that Christchurch was always going to be for one season.

"It was a really good club to work for with good people who are so committed to the club.

"Ryan and I enjoyed our time there, but we're looking for first-team football if possible."

Ashurst-based Elliott, a former Saints academy coach and community officer, sounded out

Romsey chairman Ken Jacobs about the Bypass Ground vacancy when Wayne Mew announced he was leaving, but Town were already in the process of appointing Danny Barker.

He and Chard ran Romsey's reserves during Glenn Burnett's time at the club and would have relished the chance to go back.

"It's disappointing because Romsey's a really good club which is local to me and we kick-started a lot of youngsters there," said Elliott.

Any clubs interested in speaking to Elliott and Chard can ring the former on 07515 881574.

Saunders in control at Town

PETERSFIELD Town have unveiled their new first-team manager.

Taking over at the Love Lane helm is former Fleet Town and Bockenhurst co-boss Ian Saunders.

Chairman Graeme Moir said: "We had a number of excellent candidates who applied for the job and I am delighted to have Ian on board.

"He has some exciting plans for the football side of the club and I have no doubts that he will be able to put this club back in the right direction – that is up the table in Wessex Division One so we can have a crack at promotion and also enjoy some cup runs as well.

"Ian has so much enthusiasm and plenty of experience and contacts that he will be using to build up his squad ahead of pre-season training.

"He is a great acquisition and, with our full support and backing, I am very confident that this club has some exciting times to come in the next few seasons."

Saunders, player/assistant manager of Midhurst & Easebourne last term, will start work immediately on identifying potential new signings and organising the club's programme of pre-season friendlies.

The 36-year-old said: "Petersfield is a great community club and there is a great youth set-up there.

"We will be putting together a squad which will make Petersfield very competitive in the league.

"We will be looking to push towards the top end of the table and, if we get some favourable draws in the FA Cup and FA Vase, we will look to push on there as well."

Jason Hampson has been appointed Saunders's assistant and ex-Fleet and Havant & Waterlooville winger Shaun Hale is lined up as first-team coach.

Pre-season training begins at Love Lane on June 19.

Anyone wishing to train should arrive at 6.45pm prompt for a 7pm start.

Two sign again

PROMOTION hopefuls Poole Town have signed Will Spetch and Marvin Brooks for another season – but Kevin Gill has left Tatnam.

Spetch and Brooks were stars of the Dolphins' play-off near miss in the Southern League Division One South & West last term.

Gill, who spent more than four years at the club, has decided to quit the club.

The utility man is set to join divisional rivals Wimborne Town.

Good to Talk

WHITCHURCH United have been boosted by sponsorship from phone and broadband provider Talk Talk which has been used to purchase new kit for players, managers, coaches and physios next season.

Gary Shaughnessy, chairman of the Sydenhams One club, said: "Our new kit with Talk Talk branding is fantastic. I am very proud to see Whitchurch United FC looking so well turned out."

BASH APPOINT EX-EURO STAR GRAY

BASHLEY chairman **Richard Millbery** set his sights on eventually gaining promotion to the Conference South after naming former European Cup winner **Frank Gray** as the club's manager.

Ex-Leeds United and Nottingham Forest star Gray was this week confirmed as AFC Totton boss Steve Riley's successor in the Recreation Ground hot-seat.

A former Scotland international, Gray boasts an impressive CV having worked under legendary bosses including Don Revie and Brian Clough during a distinguished playing career.

An experienced manager on the non-league circuit, the 57-year-old joins the Southern Premier outfit following his exit from Basingstoke Town in February.

Millbery said: "We have got to look upwards and we would love to be in the Conference South and Frank would love to take us there.

"But, realistically, that is not a one-year job. It takes time to do that unless you throw money at it, which Bashley don't do."

Millbery revealed that Bash received 12 applications before interviewing Gray and two other short-listed candidates.

Discussing the appointment, he added: "For us of an older age, he was

something special.

"He was at Leeds United from 1970 to 1979 and Nottingham Forest from 1979 to 1981 and that was where he won the European Cup.

"That is not the whole reason – that was part of it because he is a high-profile person.

"Frank had a very good run at Basingstoke.

"He knows the area, lives locally and knows the league and what is happening.

"We had 12 applications and short-listed three.

"Any of those three could have done the job but if you say Frank Gray to a lot of football people, it is a gasp.

"Following Jimmy Case not many years ago, we have now got Frank Gray at Bashley."

Case also won the

European Cup as a

player, as part of

the great

Liverpool

sides of the

late 1970s

and early

1980s.



Bevois & Bitten are top dogs

BITTERNE Manor and Bevois Town took the honours at the inaugural Southampton Schools six-a-side tournament at Solent University's Test Park this week.

A total of 25 teams with players aged 9-11 turned out for a series of eight-minute matches on an enjoyable afternoon in the Southampton sunshine.

The tournament was split into a boys' and girls' section, culminating in simultaneous finals on the 3G pitches with both ending 1-0.

After edging through in a semi-final sudden-death penalty shoot-out against St Mark's, Bitterne Manor defeated Townhill in the final, preserving their day-long clean sheet record in the process.

Captain Ryan Puckett, who hit the post during the semi-final shoot-out, shone throughout the final, netting the only goal.

Bitterne coach Dave Puckett said: "We've had an incredible day."

"I actually coached three of the guys from Townhill (who Bitterne beat in the final) so that was interesting!

"One of our players had never



Order no: 14490391

kicked a football before and only knew he was playing five minutes before we came out!"

Elsewhere in the boys' section, Weston Park looked like early potential winners.

Their fine passing game was enough for group stage wins over Bassett Green, Mansel and Hollybrook, but they fell at the semi-final stage with a 1-0 defeat to Townhill.

The girls' final was also close, with Xantaya Rowsell's cool finish enough for Bevois Town to defeat Springhill, who had previously not conceded a goal all afternoon.

The pair failed to be separated earlier in the day with a 0-0 draw in the group stage and they needed a penalty shoot-out to decide who would top Group A after being locked on both points and goal difference.

Springhill took a 1-0 win in the shoot-out after Bevois were forced to change their goalkeeper halfway through due to injury. But Bevois got their revenge midway through the final as Rowsell burst beyond the defence and slid the ball calmly beyond keeper Beth McConnell.

● Continued on facing page

Southampton Schools six-a-side tournament



VERMONT JUNIOR Order no: 14490411



HOLY FAMILY RC PRIMARY Order no: 14490408



MANSELL PARK PRIMARY Order no: 14490406



WESTON PARK JUNIOR Order no: 14490402



TANNERS BROOK JUNIOR B Order no: 14490400



ST MARK'S PRIMARY GIRLS Order no: 14490398



ST MARKS PRIMARY BOYS Order no: 14490393



BASSETT GREEN PRIMARY Order no: 14490370

Southampton Schools six-a-side tournament



LUDLOW JUNIOR A & B Order no: 14490362



SPRINGHILL RC PRIMARY Order no: 14490367



SPRINGHILL RC PRIMARY GIRLS Order no: 14490364



SIX A SIDE ACTION

Order no: 14490381



GOAL: Bitterne Manor celebrate.

Order no: 14490388



PARK LIFE: Weston Park v Mansell Park.
Order no: 14490389



BEECHWOOD v BITTERNE MANOR

Order no: 14490372

● From facing page
Bitterne Manor had been on course for a double success after their girls side won all four of their group matches, only to lose to eventual winners Bevois 2-0 in the semi-final.

Ludlow B were the other side to reach the semi-finals after amassing seven points from their four group matches.

However, they could not find a way through against Springhill as McConnell continued to stop everything that came her way, keeping out Ludlow during the 0-0 draw and again in a 2-0 penalty success.

Test Park activities manager Becki Jones was pleased with a successful afternoon.

She said: "These facilities have been open since October and this is the first Southampton Schools Tournament under this format.

"We wanted to make it an annual event.

"We invited every school in Southampton and it's great to see so many people playing football."

There are more football events at Test Park soon with training and fun sessions starting this weekend on Saturday mornings for just £3.

They will then be running summer camps for children between the ages of 5-14.

More information from rebecca.jones@solent.ac.uk

RESULTS

Boys Group A

Weston Park 2-0 Mansel
Bassett Green 1-1 Mansel
Weston Park 1-1 St Mark's
Bassett Green 0-1 St Mark's
St Mark's 2-0 Mansel
Weston Park 1-0 Hollybrook
St Mark's 0-0 Tannersbrook A
Weston Park 0-0 Tannersbrook A
St Mark's 1-1 Hollybrook
Bassett Green 0-2 Weston Park
Tannersbrook A 1-0 Mansel
Mansel 1-2 Hollybrook
Tannersbrook A 0-0 Hollybrook
Bassett Green 0-1 Tannersbrook A

Boys Group B

Vermont 0-3 Springhill
Bitterne Manor 1-0 Townhill
Springhill 1-0 Tannersbrook B
Vermont 0-2 Holy Family
Bitterne Manor 0-0 Springhill
Vermont 0-4 Tannersbrook B
Springhill 0-0 Holy Family
Tannersbrook B 0-2 Townhill
Bitterne Manor 0-0 Holy Family
Townhill 2-0 Holy Family
Vermont 0-5 Townhill
Bitterne Manor 2-0 Tannersbrook B
Springhill 0-0 Townhill
Vermont 0-4 Bitterne Manor
Tannersbrook B 0-1 Holy Family

Semis: Weston Park 0-1 Townhill
Bitterne Manor 0-0 St Mark's (Bitterne win 2-1 on pens.)

Final: Townhill 0-1 Bitterne Manor

Girls Group A

Bassett Green 4-0 Ludlow A
Bevois Town 0-0 Springhill
Ludlow A 0-5 Springhill
Bassett Green 0-2 Bevois Town
Bevois Town 4-0 Ludlow A
Bassett Green 0-1 Springhill
1st place decider - Springhill 1-0 Bevois Town on pens.

Girls - Group B

St Mark's 0-3 Ludlow B
Bitterne Manor 1-0 St Mark's
Beechwood 0-5 Ludlow B
Bitterne Manor 5-0 Beechwood
St Mark's 0-1 Holy Family
Bitterne Manor 1-0 Holy Family
St Mark's 0-0 Beechwood
Bitterne Manor 1-0 Ludlow B
Beechwood 0-0 Holy Family
Ludlow B 0-0 Holy Family
Semis: Bevois Town 2-0 Bitterne Manor
Springhill 0-0 Ludlow B (Springhill win 2-0 on pens.)
Final: Springhill 0-1 Bevois Town

CRICKET SPOTLIGHT - SEE PAGES 20-27

QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"Which leg is that for?" - **Huddersfield manager Simon Grayson** is dismissive of Fulham's reported £3.5million bid for striker **Jordan Rhodes** following the League One play-off win over Sheffield United.

"The desire has never been in question because I've always wanted to win the four belts and become a legend and remain at the top of the game until I get sick of it" - **Carl Froch** bigs himself up after his IBF super-middleweight win over **Lucian Bute**.

"Anything that slows down the really fast people is a leveller and you might get one or two of the not-so-fast athletes like myself coming through and springing surprises, hopefully" - **Great Britain marathon runner Mara Yamauchi** is less belligerent than **Froch** as she assesses the winding Olympic course.

"There is definitely more to come, not hundreds and hundreds of points, little improvements, but I am 26 now and I have always said this is a good age" - **Jessica Ennis** believes she can still improve after smashing the British heptathlon record of former Olympic champion **Denise Lewis**.

"Stay at home, watch it on TV. Don't even risk it... because you could end up coming back in a coffin" - **Former England international Sol Campbell**,



SOL CAMPBELL

pictured, warns England fans to avoid Euro 2012 because of the threat of racism and violence.

"I moved just horrendously out there. My first step is just so bad on this stuff. I feel like I'm always shuffling or hopping or not stopping or something" - **Former world number one Andy Roddick** laments his lack of mobility on the Roland Garros clay as he makes an opening-day exit from the French Open.

"I'm heartbroken, if I'm honest, but I'm looking forward to the new challenges that lie ahead instead knowing that I gave everything I could to make it to what should be one of the greatest Olympics in history" - **Isle of Wight born Olympic bronze medal-winning heptathlete Kelly Sotherton** airs her disappointment after confirming her retirement through injury two months before the London Games.

"I used to run 800 and do long jump. I thought I might be the only one in the world who'd ever do that combination!" - **Sotherton** reflects on her early days as a multi-eventer.

"Who in their right mind would do that? But yes, I did. I left Wentworth at 2pm, was home at 8pm, had tea with the family, left at 11pm and got here just after 6am" - **Colin Montgomerie** explains his 900-mile round-trip from Wentworth to Scotland and back to Walton Heath, all for the sake of collecting a different putter.

Pace Pumas youth football tournament



FORDINGBRIDGE

Order no: 14466445



BTC SOUTHAMPTON

Order no: 14466457



PACE GREEN U7s

Order no: 14466464



ST FRANCIS U7s

Order no: 14466489



HEDGE END APOLLOS U7s

Order no: 14466439



PACE PUMAS BLUES

Order no: 14466416



**PACE
YOUTH
ACTION
(from left)**

Order nos:
14466475,
14466479 &
14466428.

Romsey Town Youth FC presentation evening



LINING UP: Romsey Cougars under-11.



WELL DONE: Romsey under-8s.



REWARDS: Romsey's under-13 Cougars.



TROPHIES: Romsey's under-10s.



ABOVE: Romsey under-8 Cougars.

ABOVE RIGHT: Romsey's under-16s.

RIGHT: Romsey girls development side.

ROMSEY Town Youth FC held their annual presentation day at Braishfield village hall. More youngsters than ever before collected their well earned trophies. The day started with the youngest members collecting their rewards following a season of hard work at

the Academy. The Under-13 Cougars were congratulated for their outstanding performance under the guidance of manager Mark Hoyland and coach Mark Beard, which has earned them promotion to Division 1 of their Tyro League section.



QUOTES OF THE WEEK

"I find it incredible as the world number one in my sport, I may not participate in the Games due to the 'opinion' of a committee who - as reported in the British media - have apparently voted against the performance director, who is reported to have voted for me at both selection meetings. This is my whole life. I will continue to train for the London Olympics until the BOA announce the selected athletes in Taekwondo for Team GB" - **European taekwondo champion Aaron Cook** after being omitted from the GB squad for the Olympics.

"If someone throws a banana at me in the street, I will go to prison because I will kill him" - **Mario Balotelli**, pictured below, gives his view on the potential for racism at Euro 2012.



"It is hard to take, you know. I sort of feel betrayed. I don't want to go into too much detail. I just feel betrayed" - **Kevin Foley**, initially named in the Republic of Ireland's 23-man squad for Euro 2012, is bitterly disappointed not to be in the final list submitted to UEFA by Giovanni Trapattoni.

"Gandhi may have had a criminal record and you would say he is a fit and proper person to run a Premier League club but he might be forbidden by such an objective test" - **SPL chief executive Neil Doncaster** on the pit-falls on a fit and proper person test.

"I can guarantee you that is not the case. I have never called Jessica Ennis fat simply because there is no reason for it" - **Head coach Charles van Commenee** flatly denies being the "senior figure" in UK Athletics who reportedly called the heptathlete fat.

Free skills session at Test Park

■ **YOUTH FOOTBALL:** The Tesco Football Skills program is coming to Southampton in the half-term holidays, offering free football coaching to children aged 5-11.

The event is open to players of all abilities and the Southampton leg will take place at Test Park Sports Ground, Lower Brownhill Road, Nursling, Southampton, SO16 9BP on June 8. For details and to book visit: TheFA.com/TescoSkills



EMAIL YOUR YOUTH FOOTBALL NEWS TO: echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Football life begins at forty ...

THE Drew Smith Southampton League have had nine applicants for the new over-40s division, writes **ROD SUTHERLAND**.

The return of Hamble Club is very interesting.

They had previously withdrawn from the veterans section due to 35-year-olds running rings round them.

But this new section will suit them down to the ground.

Other teams to have applied are Bishops Waltham Dynamos, Locks Heath, Langley Manor, Langley Tavern, Wildern OB, Winchester OB, Old Tauntonians and BTC Southampton.

It will be very interesting to see how this section develops over the next couple of seasons.

With these nine moving from the over-35s, it leaves the option of smaller divisions.

This should avoid the fixture pile up we had last season.

Three divisions of eight will be put to the AGM on June 7 at Eastpoint Centre (7pm for a 7.30pm start).

League switches

SOME Drew Smith Southampton League clubs have made application to join other leagues.

Champions Bush Hill are looking to move up to the Hampshire Premier League, but are likely to have to wait one more season.

Forest Town and Lyndhurst are likely to be taking the sideways move to the Hampshire 2004 league.

Hedge End Rangers Reserves are moving to the Hampshire Premier Reserve section.

We await the outcomes of those league's decisions which will affect our constitution.

The committee met last Thursday to devise a proposed constitution, but it will need tweaking as a result.

Hopefully it will be revealed in next week's *Sports Pink*.

Teams go under

The Drew Smith Southampton League has lost a few clubs – Mechanics, Ampthill, Coxford Jets, Cutbush Athletic have become Nursing Reserves, Cricketers Fair Oak, Brigadier Gerard, Freemantle and Riverside Reserves.

South City and East Boldre are to merge under the East Boldre title. London Airways' first team and reserves will form one middle order team from the two sides.

We do have new teams coming on board to replace these, so hopefully we will be operating with about the same number of teams for next season.

Hopefully I will be able to give details of the new teams, along with the constitution, next week.

● **More Drew Smith Southampton League news on the facing page.**

Bishops Waltham youth tournament special ...



WINCHESTER CITY FLYERS GIRLS TEAM U12 Order no: 14467959



BISHOPS WALTHAM DYNAMOS U7 Order no: 14467785



BISHOPS WALTHAM DYNAMOS U14 Order no: 14467778



WILDCATS U12 GIRLS Order no: 14467908



Order no: 14467993



Daily Echo
dailyecho.co.uk
CAMPAIGN

ENGLAND will head into Euro 2012 with expectations lower than at previous major tournaments, with BetVictor and Paddy Power both offering 12/1 for the Three Lions to end a 46-year trophy drought.

Roy Hodgson's side are a top-priced 9/5 with BoyleSports to win Group D and can be backed at 8/15 with Blue Square and Coral to qualify from a pool which also features France, Sweden and co-hosts Ukraine.

With Wayne Rooney suspended for the opening two games, the market on who will be England's top goalscorer is wide open,

BETTING

with the Manchester United striker still just favourite at 6/1, while Andy Carroll is 7/1 at William Hill, Danny Welbeck 15/2 at bet365 and Ashley Young 8/1 in several places.

The Republic of Ireland are rated rank outsiders at 100/1 to claim outright glory and are widely available at 4/1 just to make it through a tough group which includes Spain, Italy and Croatia.

The European Championship has thrown up some surprise winners in recent tourna-

ments, with Denmark lifting the trophy in 1992 and Greece springing an even bigger shock eight years ago, but Germany may be the best bet this time at 3/1.

Joachim Low has built a progressive young outfit which only lost out 1-0 to Spain in the final four years ago and by a repeat scoreline against La Roja in the World Cup semis, before looking like the finished article when qualifying for this tournament with a perfect record.

If they win a tough group featuring Holland, Portugal and Denmark, Germany look can this time edge out Spain.



Bishops Waltham youth tournament special ...



FORDINGBRIDGE Order no: 14467789

CLOSE ENCOUNTER (FAR RIGHT) Order no: 14468005



BISHOPS WALTHAM DYNAMOS BLADES Order no: 14467780



HEAT OF BATTLE: Action from the Bishops Waltham Dynamos six-a-side football tournament.

Order nos (clockwise from right): 14467964, 14467972 & 14468024



Teams wanted

MONTHLY CASUAL LADIES' LEAGUE

THE Drew Smith Southampton League are still looking for Ladies teams for their Casual Ladies League which will take place one weekend a month at Riverside Park.

It is ideal for female teams who cannot commit for more than one weekend a month.

Any team interested can contact Rod Sutherland on 02380 864828 or email rcsutherland@supanet.com

LATE ADDITIONS

The Drew Smith Southampton League probably have space for a couple more teams in the Junior section.

But they will only consider late applicants if they are quick off the mark and raring to go.

Any team interested can contact Rod Sutherland on 02380 864828 or email rcsutherland@supanet.com



TOP OF THE PILE: Top scorer Wade Wilson, right.

Hotshots standings

**DREW SMITH
SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE
GOLDEN BOOT 2011/12**

Senior Boot

Wade Wilson (Lyndhurst)	30
Ricky Bull (Netley CS)	26
Paul Burnett (Cadnam Utd)	24
Tom Glasspool (Cadnam)	22
Darryl Hobbs (Thornhill HK)	21

Junior Boot

Gary Stoner (New Forest Res) ...	46
Dan Phillips (Riverside)	45
Jimmy Greenough (SG Sports) ...	39
Tom Milczarek (Chandlers Ford Rangers)	33
Mark Cumber (West Totton)	32

Veterans Boot

Ben Goodridge (Sp BTC A)	32
Darren Gooch (Sp BTC B)	31
Darren Clark (Langley Tav A)	30
Paul Odam (Hythe Aztecs)	25
Gary Day (Hythe Aztecs)	20
Mark Turnbull (Mich & Tims)	20
Paul Williams (Sporting BTC)	19

EMAIL TEAM PICTURES TO echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

ROYALS fixtures 2012

APRIL

12-15 Gloucestershire, home, LVCC –
Gloucs 314 (D Balcombe 8-71) & 174 (D
Balcombe 3-48, H Riazuddin 3-51), Hampshire
199 (S Katich 74) & 256 (M Bates 87, C Wood
65).

Hampshire lost by 33 runs.

19-22 Glamorgan, SWALEC, LVCC –
Glamorgan 103-9 dec (D Balcombe 5-33) &
256 (H Riazuddin 5-61), Hampshire 156 (L
Dawson 32) & 204-8 (S Ervine 75, J Vince 28).
Hampshire won by 2 wickets.

26-29 Leicestershire, h, LVCC –
Leics 234 (L Dawson 5-29), Hampshire 217-4
(M Carberry 84no, S Katich 54, S Ervine 41no).
Drawn

MAY

2-5 Northants, Northampton, LVCC
Northants 218 (C Wood 4-52) & 232-9 (C
Wood 3-58, D Balcombe 3-70), Hampshire
154 (J Vince 46no) & 179 (M Carberry 61).
Hampshire lost by 117 runs.

7 Glamorgan, h, CB40
Glamorgan 173-7 (K Ali 3-44), Hampshire 151-
2 (J Vince 83, M Carberry 60).
Hampshire won on DL Method.

9-12 Derbyshire, h, LVCC
Hampshire 352-8 dec (J Adams 122, B
Shafayat 93), Derbyshire 403-9 dec (K Ali 3-
60, J Tomlinson 3-101).
Drawn

16-19 Yorkshire, Headingley, LVCC
Hampshire 427 (S Katich 196, M Bates 103, S
Ervine 44) & 191-2 dec (S Katich 61no, M
Carberry 61no, J Adams 49), Yorkshire 399-9
dec (L Dawson 3-61).
Drawn

20 Scotland, Uddingston, CB40
Hampshire 220 (M Carberry 76), Scotland 131
(K Ali 2-17, D Briggs 2-31).
Hampshire won by 89 runs.

23-26 Glamorgan, h, LVCC
27 Somerset, Taunton, CB40
31 Nottinghamshire (F), h, CB40

JUNE

3 Surrey, KIA Oval, CB40
4 Scotland, h, CB40
6-9 Kent, Tunbridge Wells, LVCC
14 Sussex (F), Hove, FLt20
15 Kent, Canterbury, FLt20
19 Middlesex (F), h, FLt20
20 Surrey (F), KIA Oval, FLt20
22 Kent (F), h, FLt20
27 Middlesex, Richmond, FLt20
29 Essex (F), Chelmsford, FLt20
30 Surrey, h, FLt20

JULY

6 Sussex (F), h, FLt20
8 Essex (F), h, FLt20
11-14 Yorkshire, h, LVCC
15 Durham, h, CB40
17 Notts (F), Trent Bridge, CB40
19-22 Essex, Chelmsford, LVCC
24/25 FLt20 quarter-finals
27-30 Kent, h, LVCC

AUGUST

6-9 Gloucestershire, Bristol, LVCC
10 Glamorgan (F), SWALEC, CB40
14 Somerset (F), h, CB40
15-18 Northamptonshire, h, LVCC
19 Surrey, h, CB40
21-24 Leics, Grace Road, LVCC
24/25 FLt20 semi-finals/finals
27 Durham, Chester-le-Street, CB40

SEPTEMBER

1 CB40 semi-finals
4-7 Essex, h, LVCC
11-14 Derbyshire, Derby, LVCC
15 CB40 final, Lords.

KEY:

LVCC (LV County Championship division two),
CB40 (Clydesdale Bank40), FLt20 (Friends Life
t20), F (floodlit)

Hampshire Cricket

Shafayat's former coach hoping

EIGHTEEN months after releasing Bilal Shafayat, Nottinghamshire coach Mick Newell hopes the batsman once tipped to be a future England star can establish himself at Hampshire.

Shafayat's signing for Hampshire on a one-year contract was a relatively low-key affair compared to the unveiling of Glenn Maxwell as the Royals' third Friends Life t20 overseas player this week.

But being in the background – for now at least – is perhaps no bad place

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CRICKET REPORTER



for the 27-year-old as he tries to rebuild a career that began with the weight of future stardom bestowed on his shoulders when he was still at school.

Shafayat was just 16 when he made his first-class debut for Notts in 2001.

He ended that first season by scoring

72 against Hampshire at Trent Bridge and went on to perform impressively for England A as he had done as captain of an England Under-19 side including Alastair Cook.

But it never worked out for Shafayat at Trent Bridge. Newell replaced Clive Rice as Notts coach in 2002 and within three years Nottingham-born Shafayat left for Northants, disaffected at his lack of opportunities with his home county.

After two years at Wantage Road, where he his 34.7 Championship aver-

age was more than Notts spells, Shafayat left Trent Bridge.

The old adage 'you back' proved to be true. At the end of Shafayat was on his first time it was n.

"Letting him go was actually, I had to make whether he justified I felt could be where," said Newell.

CARBERRY DELIGHT STRAUSS' RETURN

YOU could forgive Michael Carberry for feeling a little regret at Andrew Strauss's return to form against the West Indies.

Not a bit of it.

There were whispers that the England captain's Test career might be drawing to a close after 16 century-less matches and a nondescript start to the season with Middlesex.

Should Strauss or Alastair Cook become unavailable to England for any reason, Carberry would be a strong contender to add to the one Test cap he won against Bangladesh in March 2010.

Especially in the form he has been in of late.

But after following his 122 in the first Test at Lord's with a magnificent 141 at Trent Bridge, it is clear there is still life in the career of 35-year-old Strauss.

Carberry, who played his one Test while Strauss enjoyed a brief sabbatical two years ago, is pleased for his fellow left-hander.

"No-one likes to see another batter struggle so it's nice he's come through it," he says. "Strauss has done well and fair play to him for his two hundreds."

Having impressed for the England Lions against the West Indies at Northampton last month Carberry knows what is needed to give himself another Test opportunity.

"During the Lions game the selectors didn't have that much of a chat with me in terms of where I stand but I'm at an age now where it's pretty simple.

"It's about scoring runs and performing well for my county. Whatever happens, happens.

"If it's meant to be hopeful-

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER



ly I'll be back in an England shirt again before I retire. But if not, I'm proud of what I have achieved."

Like Kevin Pietersen, Carberry is 32 this year. But that is a more significant age for a player who has not played for England nearly as much as he would like.

"There are a lot of good young players coming through," he continues. "I have to bear in mind that I'm coming into a more senior age."

"Whether the selectors feel I'm still young enough to do it, or they have other people in mind, who knows."

"But at this stage of life I just focus on what I have to do and stay fit and strong."

There is more to Carberry's role at Hampshire role these days.

"To a degree I'm an 'uncle' to the batters - I don't know how the years have gone so quickly! - but I'm enjoying my cricket as one of the senior guys with a bit more responsibility."

Carberry produced a very responsible innings at Taunton last week, a Marcus Trescothick-like 103 not out in a convincing Clydesdale Bank 40 win against Somerset.

As the competition's leading run scorer, with 293 at 97.7, it was not the first time he has impressed as Jimmy Adams' opening partner this season.



Spotlight

g he can impress ...

he managed in his
fayat returned to
ou should never go
correct.
the 2010 season,
his way again and
not of his own voli-
was hard but, even-
ke a decision as to
d the money, which
better spent else-
ell, who has known

Shafayat since he was 13.

"He's a lovely lad with a nice family and a very supportive father in particular, and I'm hoping it works out for him," continued Newell, whose Notts side won a Clydesdale Bank 40 match against a Hampshire side minus Shafayat at The Ageas Bowl on Thursday.

"He's a talented player and a lovely lad and if he's got his hunger back he's still got every chance of a career, probably more so in the longer form of the game."

Batting at three, Shafayat made an impressive 93 on his Hampshire debut against Derbyshire, having initially signed on a match-by-match basis.

"He's a good top four batter and did ok for us before leaving for Northants," said Newell.

"When he came back he wanted to bat lower down but that wasn't possible.

"Opening at Trent Bridge is a pretty hazardous profession and he found that pretty difficult, but he's always had the ability to play a lot of shots."



BILAL SHAFAYAT

ATED BY I TO FORM



"I spoke to the coaches about going back up top over the winter so I have the opportunity to score more hundreds because that puts me in good stead for further honours," he explains.

"I really enjoy it there, I was successful there when I started my Hampshire career and Jimmy and I have batted a lot together over the years. It's a nice combination."

Carberry laughs when asked whether he will open in the Friends Life t20 (Hampshire's 2010 success coincided with his switch to the middle order and he has not played a t20 game since batting at six when the Royals won that summer's memorable final).

"You'll have to talk to Giles [White] about that one!" he smiles. "I don't want to speak too far ahead of myself but I'm more than happy to bat wherever I'm put."

It would certainly make sense for Carberry to open alongside Adams again in the LV County Championship against Kent at Tunbridge Wells next week.

Apart from anything else, it would take the heat off the out-of-form Liam Dawson (181 runs at 12.9).

But Carberry is backing his teammate to rediscover last year's form.

"Let's not forget, Liam did very well last year," he said.

"He's found it tougher this year, like most openers, but we're constantly in his ear pepping him up saying the runs will come.

"We all go through ups and downs but Liam's a good enough player and he's strong enough to come through it."

Andrew Strauss and Kevin Pietersen are both just two centuries away from equalling Wally Hammond's English Test record of 22 hundreds.

MOST TEST CENTURIES

51 SR Tendulkar (India)
42 JH Kallis (S Africa)
41 RT Ponting (Australia)
36 RS Dravid (India)
34 SM Gavaskar (India)
34 BC Lara (W Indies)
32 SR Waugh (Australia)
31 D Jayawardene (Sri Lanka)
30 ML Hayden (Australia)
29 DG Bradman (Australia)
28 KC Sangakkara (Sri Lanka)
27 AR Border (Australia)
26 GS Sobers (W Indies)
25 Inzamam-ul-Haq (Pakistan)
25 S Chandrapaul (W Indies)
24 GS Chappell (Australia)
24 IVA Richards (W Indies)
24 M Yousuf (Pakistan)
24 GC Smith (S Africa)
23 Javed Miandad (Pakistan)
23 JL Langer (Australia)
22 WR Hammond (England)
22 MC Cowdrey (England)
22 G Boycott (England)
22 M Azharuddin (India)
22 V Sehwag (India)
21 RN Harvey (Australia)
21 DC Boon (Australia)
21 G Kirsten (S Africa)
20 KF Barrington (England)
20 GA Gooch (England)
20 PA de Silva (Sri Lanka)
20 ME Waugh (Australia)
20 Younis Khan (Pakistan)
20 KP Pietersen (England)
20 AJ Strauss (England)

MOST ODI CENTURIES

49 SR Tendulkar (India)
30 RT Ponting (Australia)
28 ST Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka)
22 SC Ganguly (India)
21 HH Gibbs (S Africa)
20 Saeed Anwar (Pakistan)
19 BC Lara (W Indies)
19 CH Gayle (W Indies)
18 ME Waugh (Australia)
17 DL Haynes (W Indies)
17 JH Kallis (S Africa)
16 NJ Astle (N Zealand)
16 AC Gilchrist (Australia)
15 M Yousuf (Pakistan)
15 D Jayawardene (Sri Lanka)
15 V Sehwag (India)
13 G Kirsten (South Africa)
13 Yuvraj Singh (India)
13 AB de Villiers (S Africa)
13 KC Sangakkara (Sri Lanka)
12 ME Trescothick (England)
12 RS Dravid (India)
12 TM Dilshan (Sri Lanka)
12 WU Tharanga (Sri Lanka)
11 CG Greenidge (W Indies)
11 IVA Richards (W Indies)
11 PA de Silva (Sri Lanka)
11 MS Atapattu (Sri Lanka)
11 S Chandrapaul (W Indies)
11 V Kohli (India)

SO much for 30 being the new 20 and the wonders of sports science, **writes SIMON WALTER.**

Kevin Pietersen's astonishing revelation that his retirement from one-day internationals is due to "the increasing demands on my body, approaching 32," is laughable in the current day and age.

"I think it is the right time to step aside and let the next generation of players come through to gain experience for the ICC World Cup in 2015," Pietersen continued.

The current generation? Mark Ramprakash must not know whether to laugh or cry.

England's most technically gifted batsman of his generation (I am talking about Ramps here, not KP) is so in love with the game he played club cricket for Stanmore CC last weekend as he tries to force his way back into Surrey's side at the age of 42.

We all know Ramprakash is an unfilled talent on the biggest stage, but his desire to add to his 114 first-class hundreds is extraordinarily impressive.

Pietersen's retirement from limited-overs internationals is also extraordinary, but not in a good way.

It was easy to sympathise with Hugh Morris, England cricket's managing director,

when he said: "The ECB is disappointed by the timing of Kevin's decision less than four months before we defend our ICC World Twenty20 title."

In fairness, Pietersen wanted to play in that tournament before the England and Wales Cricket Board insisted on his availability for all limited-overs internationals, or none at all.

You could understand their point. It is difficult enough to juggle three formats at the best of times without players picking and choosing what form of pyjama cricket they play.

Even players as talented as KP.

It does not seem that long since he was making his outrageous entrance to ODI cricket, scoring three centuries in five games back in his native South Africa.

His retirement now ensures that he has ended his seven-year limited-overs career in similar style, following his back-to-back centuries at the end of England's series against Pakistan in Dubai in February.

It also means he will not be playing for the home side at the Ageas Bowl on June 16 (when England begin their one-day season against the West Indies).

But then some things never change ...



PIETERSEN

● BARRY Richards was close to a century when Hampshire won a John Player League match by five wickets at Surrey in the famously hot summer of 1976. A repeat win this weekend in the CB40 would be much appreciated after Thursday night's loss to Nottinghamshire at The Ageas Bowl.

John Player League 1976
Kennington Oval, August 1 1976 (40-over match)

Surrey innings

AR Butcher c Richards b Mottram	2
GP Howarth c Turner b Mottram	106
Younis Ahmed c Stephenson b Jestly	8
JH Edrich st Stephenson b Murtagh	1
GRJ Roope b Murtagh	10
LE Skinner c Southern b Mottram	29
Intikhab Alam b Jestly	12
DM Smith not out	3
RD Jackman b Jestly	0
GG Arnold not out	0
Extras	6
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs)	177
Fall: 1-2, 2-36, 3-51, 4-75, 5-154, 6-166, 7-175, 8-175	

Bowling: Mottram 8-1-36-3; Rice 8-0-31-0; Jestly 8-2-31-3; Sainsbury 2-0-17-0; Murtagh 8-0-34-2; Southern 6-0-22-0

Hampshire innings	
BA Richards not out	95
JM Rice run out	0
DR Turner c Skinner b Intikhab Alam	13
TE Jestly b Pocock	23
RMC Gilliat c Butcher b Roope	31
AJ Murtagh lbw b Roope	5
PJ Sainsbury not out	7
Extras	5
Total (5 wickets, 36.1 overs)	179
Fall: 1-8, 2-36, 3-73, 4-135, 5-152	
Bowling: Arnold 6-1-0-29; Jackman 8-0-40-0; Roope 8-0-35-2; Intikhab Alam 8-0-40-1; Pocock 6-2-30-1	
Hampshire won by 5 wickets	

● Hampshire sneaked a narrow three-run win in a Sunday League thriller at Surrey in 1986, the year the county won the last of their three one-day league titles.

John Player Special League
Kennington Oval, Sept 7 1986 (40-over match)

Hampshire innings	
CG Greenidge c Richards b Gray	16
VP Terry hit wkt b Thomas	2
RA Smith lbw b Bicknell	21
MCJ Nicholas c Bullen b Gray	0
CL Smith c Bullen b Butcher	16
KD James not out	54
NGC Cowley c Richards b Butcher	0
MD Marshall c Richards b Bicknell	1
TM Tremlett run out	4
Extras	25
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs)	149
Fall: 1-9, 2-32, 3-32, 4-56, 5-94, 6-94, 7-95, 8-114	
Bowling: Gray 8-1-37-2; Thomas 8-0-41-1; Bullen 8-1-13-0; Bicknell 8-1-19-2; Needham 4-0-16-0; Butcher 4-0-12-2	

Surrey innings

AR Butcher c Terry b Tremlett	44
GS Clinton c RA Smith b Marshall	6
MA Lynch c Parks b Connor	0
CJ Richards lbw b Tremlett	10
DM Ward lbw b Tremlett	3
NJ Falkner b Marshall	31
DJ Thomas c James b Connor	34
A Needham run out	5
AH Gray not out	2
CK Bullen not out	0
Extras	11
Total (8 wickets, 40 overs)	146

Fall: 1-17, 2-17, 3-38, 4-45, 5-96, 6-117, 7-143, 8-145

Bowling: Marshall 8-0-27-2; Connor 8-0-21-2; Tremlett 8-0-34-3; James 8-0-32-0; Cowley 8-1-28-0

Hampshire won by 3 runs

● SHANE Watson's hundred gave Hampshire a famous Oval win on their way to the 2005 C & G Trophy.

Cheltenham and Gloucester Trophy QF
The Brit Oval, July 15 2005 (50-over match)

Surrey innings	
JGE Benning st Pothas b Udal	73
JN Batty not out	158
AD Brown c Latouf b Tremlett	12
GP Thorpe b Udal	60
R Clarke b Ervine	17
Azhar Mahmood c Pothas b Tremlett	4
TJ Murtagh c Crawley b Ervine	3
MR Ramprakash not out	5
Extras	26
Total (6 wickets, 50 overs)	358
Fall: 1-142, 2-159, 3-274, 4-321, 5-328, 6-349	
Bowling: Tremlett 10-0-68-2; Taylor 7-0-68-0; Ervine 7-0-47-2; Mascarenhas 8-0-50-0; Udal 10-0-62-2; Lamb 6-0-41-0; McMillan 2-0-20-0	

Hampshire innings

GA Lamb c Batty b Azhar Mahmood	0
N Pothas c Mohammad Akram b Murtagh	27
JP Crawley c Thorpe b Mohammad Akram	45
SR Watson b Murtagh	132
CD McMillan run out	42
SM Ervine c Doshi b Benning	16
KJ Latouf c Batty b Mohammad Akram	25
AD Mascarenhas run out	6
SD Udal not out	44
CT Tremlett not out	1
Extras	21
Total (8 wickets, 47.5 overs)	359

Fall: 1-0, 2-41, 3-119, 4-200, 5-232, 6-270, 7-279, 8-342

Bowling: Azhar Mahmood 9-1-61-1; Murtagh 8.5-0-63-2; Ormond 10-0-71-0; Mohammad Akram 10-0-71-2; Doshi 7-0-64-0; Benning 3-0-25-1

Hampshire won by 2 wickets

England right to think ahead

ENGLAND are set to spend the lead-up to the third Test against West Indies assessing how best to prepare for South Africa, **writes SIMON CARTER.**

It is a dangerous mindset prone to criticism. It may also just be good planning.

Next week's third Test at Edgbaston is a dead rubber after England again dispatched a willing yet limited West Indies by nine wickets at Trent Bridge.

The victory broke a century-old record as England claimed a seventh consecutive home series win.

The last team to beat England on these shores was South Africa in 2008. The Proteas' arrival is the top bill of the summer.

The top two Test nations will go head-to-head with England's status as the best in the world on the line.

It is hardly surprising then that almost immediately after victory was secured in Nottingham, thoughts strayed to the South Africa series.

The debate, before the squad is due to be named on Sunday, will focus on whether to rest some of England's star names in preparation for the Proteas. Paceman James Anderson is perhaps



IMRAN TAHIR

the most likely to sit out after complaining of a quad niggle, with England set also to assess the wear and tear of back-to-back Tests.

Critics will claim, perhaps correctly, that at a time when Test cricket is battling against disinterest it can not afford to rest its crowd pleasers.

They could also say that the absence of those players is a disrespect to West Indies and Test cricket itself.

England are, however, not troubled by such notions.

Indeed, the enterprising style that has underpinned the rise of Andy Flower's side to the top arguably means they are the ones who are owed a little.

As captain Andrew Strauss eluded to, his side are in the business of winning Tests and even should they make changes next week, it is not hard to imagine they should still have enough to beat a deflated West Indies.

If that also means England's best are kept in cotton wool for the big event of the summer, then that too is good for interest in the game.

When the top two teams in the world meet, the cricket public want to see them at full strength.

The prospect of England's bowlers taking on Graeme Smith, AB de Villiers, Jacques Kallis and Hashim Amla is tantalising.

Then there is the side issue of who has the best attack in the world with Dale Steyn, Vernon Philander, Morne Morkel and ex-Hampshire star Imran Tahir set to prove their credentials.

Like it or not, that is far more blockbuster than what Ravi Rampaul, Shane Shillingford and Darren Sammy can provide.

If ensuring England are at full throttle when South Africa come knocking means the public are short changed in Edgbaston next week, it seems worth it.

Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

Big-hitter Glenn trip from IPL to

SINCE making his Indian Premier League debut for the Delhi Daredevils in front of a fervent 56,000-strong crowd, he has been playing for South Wilts CC in the Southern Electric Premier League.

Now he is looking forward to playing for Hampshire in this year's Friends Life t20 competition.

This is the remarkable journey of record-breaking Australian Glenn Maxwell.

The 23-year-old has been registered as the county's third overseas player for this year's FL t20 tournament, which Hampshire begin against Sussex at Hove on June 14.

Maxwell is expected to start the tournament alongside Simon Katich as Shahid Afridi, his Melbourne Renegades teammate, will still be playing for Pakistan in Sri Lanka.

He cannot wait after seeing Hampshire go top of their Clydesdale Bank40 group by beating Somerset in front of more than 4,000 at Taunton last week.

But whatever happens when he makes his Hampshire debut, it is unlikely to top his experience with the Delhi Daredevils at this year's IPL.

"The week I signed was crazy!" smiles Maxwell, a typically ebullient young Aussie.

"I'd just been told I could go over to Hampshire when Greg Shipperd, the Victoria coach, rang me to say I was going to get a call from Delhi!"

"Two minutes later I got a call from Aashish Kapoor, the Delhi manager, who said he wanted me to get over there the following week as they'd had a few players drop out through injury."

Maxwell was soon making a memorable IPL debut.

Batting at four against the Kolkata Knight Riders at a rocking Eden Gardens, he helped Irfan Pathan see the Daredevils to a dramatic eight-wicket win.

"That was in front of a seriously amazing crowd of 56,000," he enthuses. "It had been raining all day, it was almost a hurricane and I thought my one game was going to be washed out!"

"But at 10pm they took the covers off. The ground was still full, the crowd had stuck around for two hours of rain and it was absolutely amazing."

"I couldn't hear myself think walking into bowl. I was just hoping the ball wouldn't come to me because I couldn't function!"

"It was an amazing experience, just to be part of it playing against guys like [Jacques] Kallis and [Gautam] Gambhir, who I'd watched on TV and



HITTING OUT: Glenn Maxwell in action for South Wilts.

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

CRICKET REPORTER

worshipped."

Maxwell played for Delhi alongside the likes of Virender Sehwag, Morne Morkel and his Victoria teammate Aaron Finch.

Two days later, he was up against a Bangalore Royal Challengers side including his hero AB de Villiers.

"I have a few favourite players who I've always wanted to meet - Brendon McCullum, Eoin Morgan and AB de Villiers - and I got to meet them all in the space of a week!"

"I'm normally pretty good at that sort of thing but I had the jitters."

"I played against de Villiers in the second game and got to bowl against him which was ridiculous."

"I was so nervous bowling to him, but got to meet him that night and talk to him."

"I got on so well with guys like him and Sehwag, they were really welcoming."

"Talking to them was an open forum, I learnt so much."

"Just rubbing shoulders with them was amazing."

"Sehwag liked the way I took the game on like him, not backing down too much. He loved that."

Maxwell lost his place when Kevin Pietersen and Mahela Jayawardene arrived.

"They got rid of the little guys," he laughs.

Maxwell hopes for another IPL opportunity next year. "The hype around it is ridiculous," he continues. "There's a game every day and so many

big international superstars playing."

"Every billboard has an IPL team on it and every bus stop had an IPL player on it advertising some sort of food!"

Even Maxwell, a relative unknown, was besieged by autograph hunters in India's cricket-crazy capital.

He has enjoyed the relative obscurity of life in Bitterne since his arrival on the south coast.

Originally, he hoped to begin his Hampshire career as a non-overseas player in the LV County Championship, courtesy of his UK passport (his Plymouth-born dad was in the Royal Navy before

ageas

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Hampshire Cricket Spotlight

Cricket Stats

makes amazing Hampshire ...

emigrating, aged 19).

Then he realised that that would prevent him from adding to the 11 first-class appearances he has made for Victoria, his home state.

So for the last few weeks he has been keeping his eye in for Hampshire II and South Wilts CC, for whom he scored a 24-ball 46 on debut against the Hampshire Academy last month.

Nine days ago, he raised eyebrows with an astonishing display for Hampshire's seconds in an ECB T20 Knockout game against MCC Young Cricketers at Shenley.

He hit 12 sixes in a 31-ball hundred, which is believed to be a world record.

Incredibly, he needed only 11 balls for his second fifty.

"I saw enough balls in my area and hit them well enough," he says, modestly.

"It was good to get my first t20 hundred - I just had a day out!"

A country boy brought up on the outskirts of

Melbourne, Maxwell is also a useful golfer and sacrificed Aussie Rules to focus on cricket in his teens.

He began to fulfil his potential when he reached his twenties.

"That's when everything clicked and I realised what I can achieve," he says.

Sixteen months ago, Maxwell hit the fastest one-day fifty in Australian domestic cricket.

In only his sixth one-day game for Victoria, Maxwell blitzed a 19-ball half-century that beat David Hookes' 20-year-old record, from 21 balls.

And Maxwell's was an innings under big pressure. Batting at number eight, he walked to the wicket with his side 157-6 needing another 102 from 70 balls to beat Tasmania.

Maxwell, whose previous best score was 33, smashed his side back into the contest.

When he was out, for a 27-ball 61, Victoria 'only' needed 18 from 11 balls. Last-wicket pair Peter Siddle and Jon Holland got them.

A month later, in only his second first-class game for Victoria, Maxwell made a 74-ball 63 in the first innings of a Sheffield Shield game against South Australia at the MCG, before hammering his maiden first-class hundred - an unbeaten 103 off 118 balls - in the second innings.

Maxwell could also be an overseas option for Hampshire in the LV County Championship, should injury sideline Katich at any stage.

With a first-class average of 45.3 from 11 Sheffield Shield appearances for Victoria, he is well capable of transferring his skills to the longer form.

But it is in the shorter formats where he has forged his reputation.

He also has an international tournament success to his name, having helped Australia to 2010 Hong Kong Sixes success.

In a remarkable final, he helped Australia defeat Pakistan by two wickets.

Batting first, Pakistan rattled up an astonishing 132-5 from their five overs.

Even more amazingly, Australia won with two balls to spare, Maxwell blazing a 15-ball 34 - including three sixes - alongside fellow opener David Warner (35 off 11 balls).

Now he is hoping to light up The Ageas Bowl with his clean hitting.

He has been here once before, but that was as a paying spectator.

"I played club cricket in Norfolk in 2008 and at the end of that summer I came over to watch Hampshire win a 40-over game against Durham, who [Shivnarine] Chanderpaul was playing for.

"Little did I know I'd be back here four years later!"

"It's pretty weird the way things happen." If his past achievements are anything to go by, Maxwell's Ageas Bowl debut will be worth the gate money.

FASTEST CENTURIES

One day internationals

Shahid Afridi - 37 balls (Pakistan v Sri Lanka, 1996)
MV Boucher - 44 balls (South Africa v Zimbabwe, 2006)
BC Lara - 45 balls (West Indies v Bangladesh, 1999)
Shahid Afridi - 45 balls (Pakistan v India, 2005)
ST Jayasuriya - 48 balls (Sri Lanka v Pakistan, 1996)
KJ O'Brien - 50 balls (Ireland v England, 2011)
Shahid Afridi - 53 balls (Pakistan v Bangladesh, 2010)
ST Jayasuriya - 55 balls (Sri Lanka v Bangladesh, 2008)
AB de Villiers - 58 balls (South Africa v India, 2010)
V Sehwag - 60 balls (India v New Zealand, 2009)

T20 matches

A Symonds - 34 balls (Kent v Middlesex, 2004)
LP van der Westhuizen - 35 balls (Namibia v Kenya, 2011)
YK Pathan - 37 balls (Jaipur v Mumbai, 2010)
Ahmed Shehzad - 40 balls (Barisal Burners v Duronto Rajshahi, 2012)
LL Bosman - 41 balls (Eagles v Lions, 2005)
H Davids - 41 balls (Cape Cobras v Warriors, 2009)
BF Smith - 42 balls (Worcestershire v Glamorgan, 2005)
AC Gilchrist - 42 balls (Hyderabad v Mumbai, 2008)
GA Hick - 44 balls (Worcestershire v Northamptonshire, 2007)
LJ Wright - 44 balls (Sussex v Kent, 2007)

Limited overs

GD Rose - 36 balls (Somerset v Devon, 1990)
YK Pathan - 40 balls (Baroda v Maharashtra, 2009-10)
RR Watson - 43 balls (Scotland v Somerset, 2003)
MA Ealham - 44 balls (Kent v Derbyshire, 1995)
GD Rose - 46 balls (Somerset v Glamorgan, 1990)
MP Speight - 47 balls (Sussex v Somerset, 1993)
AJ Lamb - 48 balls (Northamptonshire v Sussex, 1992)

Test cricket

Vivian Richards - 56 balls (West Indies v England, 1986)
Adam Gilchrist - 57 balls (Australia v England, 2007)
John Gregory - 67 balls (Australia v South Africa, 1921)
David Warner - 69 balls (Australia v India, 2012)
Shiv Chanderpaul - 69 balls (West Indies v Australia, 2002)
Chris Gayle - 70 balls (West Indies v Australia, 2009)
Roy Fredericks - 71 balls (West Indies v Australia, 1975)

2012 CHAMPIONSHIP - HAMPSHIRE BATTING

	I	NO	Rns	HS	Av
S Katich	12	1	522	196	47.45
S Ervine	11	2	340	109*	37.77
J Adams	9	0	314	122	34.88
M Carberry	11	2	311	84*	34.55
M Bates	10	0	297	103	29.70
J Vince	11	1	228	48	22.80
C Wood	9	0	184	65	20.44
L Dawson	12	0	179	35	14.91
D Balcombe	10	5	103	39	20.60
B Shafayat	1	0	93	93	93.00
H Riazuddin	6	1	68	28	13.60
K Ali	4	1	61	25	20.33
S Terry	4	0	34	19	8.50
J Tomlinson	3	1	15	11	7.50
D Briggs	3	1	11	9	5.50
D Griffiths	2	1	0	0*	0.00

2012 CHAMPIONSHIP - HAMPSHIRE BOWLING

	Rns	W	BB	Av
D Balcombe	693	33	8-71	21.00
C Wood	483	15	4-52	32.20
L Dawson	342	11	5-29	31.09
H Riazuddin	240	10	5-61	24.00
K Ali	247	9	3-42	27.44
S Ervine	257	9	3-32	28.55
J Tomlinson	263	9	3-45	29.22
D Griffiths	1118	4	2-28	29.50
D Briggs	100	3	104	33.33
J Vince	6	0	-	-

2012 CB40 - HAMPSHIRE BATTING

	I	NO	Rns	HS	Av
M Carberry	4	1	235	103*	78.33
J Adams	3	0	140	56	46.66
J Vince	3	0	106	83	35.33
S Ervine	3	1	68	68	34.00
D Mascarenhas	2	0	48	48	48.00
K Ali	2	0	34	32	17.00
L Dawson	2	0	34	18	17.00
D Briggs	2	1	17	17	17.00
S Katich	3	1	13	6	6.50
C Wood	2	0	7	4	3.50
M Bates	2	0	6	4	3.00
D Griffiths	1	1	1	1*	-

2012 CB40 - HAMPSHIRE BOWLING

	Rns	W	BB	Av
K Ali	117	6	3-44	19.50
L Dawson	114	4	2-32	28.50
D Briggs	174	4	2-31	43.50
D Mascarenhas	54	3	2-17	18.00
D Griffiths	62	3	2-36	20.66
C Wood	167	3	1-24	55.66
M Carberry	8	1	1-8	8.00
S Ervine	71	1	1-19	71.00

JAMES Taylor's sensational unbeaten 115 off just 77 balls for Notts this week was the joint 10th highest ever individual score in a limited overs (not t20) match at The Ageas Bowl.

Sean Ervine's unbeaten 167 against Ireland in 2009 remains the highest in the 12 years cricket has been played at the West End venue.

Ervine is one of three Hampshire batsmen to appear twice in the list of the top 12 innings, along with Chris Benham and Derek Kenway.

Top scores

- 167* SM Ervine (Hampshire v Ireland 2009)
- 158 CC Benham (Hampshire v Glamorgan 2006)
- 136 SM Ervine (Hampshire v Leicestershire 2011)
- 131 JM Vince (Hampshire v Scotland 2011)
- 126* IR Bell (England v India 2007)
- 125 MM Ali (Worcs v Hampshire 2009)
- 122 CC Benham (Hampshire v West Indies A 2006)
- 121* MA Carberry (Hampshire v Ireland 2009)
- 121 NJ O'Brien (Northants v Hampshire 2011)
- 120* DA Kenway (Hampshire v Zimbabweans 2003)
- 115 DA Kenway (Hampshire v Somerset 2003)
- 115* JA Taylor (Notts v Hampshire 2012)

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Sports Quiz

- 1 Blackpool forward Matt Phillips plays international football for which country?
- 2 Kevin Pietersen plays for which Indian Premier League franchise?
- 3 Which football League club plays at Valley Parade?
- 4 Who is coach of Stobart Super League club Hull FC?
- 5 Carlos Checa is a world champion in which sport?
- 6 Who holds the record for the most Monaco Grand Prix victories by a British driver?
- 7 BBC cricket commentator Jonathan Agnew represented which county during a 13-year first-class career?
- 8 The Fleche Wallonne is an annual event in which sport?
- 9 What is the only NFL franchise to contest - and lose - four consecutive Super Bowls?
- 10 From which club did Fulham sign United States international Clint Dempsey in 2007?



BRENDAN RODGERS

- 11 Which former Chelsea manager recruited Brendan Rodgers as the club's youth team coach in 2004?
- 12 Roger Federer became a Grand Slam record breaker this week but whose record, for the most match wins, did he surpass?
- 13 How many players would you find on an ice hockey team?
- 14 For which county does Graeme Swann play his cricket?
- 15 Which surname links British race-horse trainer Nicky and Liverpool midfielder Jordan?
- 16 Which club did Michael Dawson join Spurs from?
- 17 What nationality is tennis player Angelique Kerber?
- 18 How many one-day international centuries has Kevin Pietersen scored?
- 19 Great Britain won how many gold medals at the 2008 Beijing Olympics?
- 20 Which rugby union team play their home matches at the Liberty Stadium?

ANSWERS

1 Scotland; 2 Delhi Daredevils; 3 Bradford City; 4 Peter Gentile; 5 Motorcycle racing - World Superbikes; 6 Graham Hill (five); 7 Leicestershire; 8 Road cycling; 9 Buffalo Bills (1990, 1991, 1992, 1993); 10 New England Revolution; 11 Jose Mourinho; 12 Jimmy Connors; 13 Six; 14 Nottinghamshire; 15 Henderson; 16 Nottingham Forest; 17 German; 18 Nine; 19 19; 20 Ospreys.

Local Cricket Spotlight

OVERSEAS players came to the fore in the second round of Hampshire League matches, with five of them influencing the outcome of County Division 1 games.

Australian Jamie Ryan took wickets and then scored runs in Portchester's quick-fire win over Idlers, while fellow Antipodeans Dale Hackett and Grant Edgar hit centuries for Ryde and St Cross III respectively, **writes MIKE VIM-PANY.**

Two South Africans caught the eye as well - John Grewar for Waterlooville, and Ash Wallace, once again for Portsmouth & Southsea.

Six clubs have managed to win their opening two matches, while seven others embarked on today's programme seeking to get off the mark.

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY LEAGUE 1

	P	W	L	Pts	Ave
Waterlooville	1	1	0	24	24.00
Locks Heath	2	2	0	46	23.00
Portchester	2	2	0	45	22.50
Portsmouth & S'sea	2	2	0	44	22.00
St Cross Syms III	2	2	0	44	22.00
Ryde	2	2	0	43	21.50
Purbrook	2	2	0	42	21.00
Hook & N Basics II	2	1	1	32	16.00
Bashley (Rydal) II	2	1	1	31	15.50
Midhurst	2	1	1	29	14.50
Rowledge II	2	1	1	28	14.00
Fareham & Crofton	2	0	2	14	7.00
Lymington II	2	0	2	13	6.50
Idlers	2	0	2	10	5.00
Bedhampton	2	0	2	9	4.50
Ellingham	2	0	2	9	4.50
Alton II	1	0	1	3	3.00
Andover II	2	0	2	4	2.00



DECENT PERFORMANCE:
Locks Heath's Alex Richardson.

Waterlooville had a longer wait than anyone else and had three games cancelled before finally getting into the action.

They certainly made up for lost time, smashing beleaguered Andover II for 320-5 at Rowlands Avenue.

Four batsmen made half-centuries, with Alex Shephard (67) and the Durban-based Grewar (55) enjoying a century opening stand against the ten-man visitors.

Matt Charman (72 not out) and Alex Lamont (75) weighed in as Waterlooville ran amok and then whisked Andover out for a dismal 53, Sam Hillman taking 4-16.

Locks Heath, last year's runners-up, have not recruiting overseas support but have won their opening two games, against Andover II and Bedhampton.

Bedhampton lost batsmen at regular intervals - mainly to three-wicket Dave Lemon, Jamie Hill and Peter Bleeck - and were always going to struggle to defend 154.

"It was a decent performance by us, bowling them out for that total on a decent surface and on a pretty hot day," Heath all-rounder Alex Richardson commented.

Heath lost two early wickets, but Scott Jones carried his bat and was first at the bar after making 51, while Chris Boyd and Matt Bashford got into the 30s.

Coming from the Western Australian seaside resort of Mandurah, Jamie Ryan had never watched the Eurovision Song Contest before.

And Englebert Humperdinck's vinyls don't feature in his music collection alongside his favourite Aussie band, Men at Work.

But his curiosity was satisfied aplenty after his 5-42 spell of left-arm bowling and an unbeaten 69 secured a quick-fire eight-wicket win over Idlers.

A premature 5.15pm finish didn't look to be the order of the day when Joe Cranch teed off with a boundary-strewn 37 for Idlers, but David O'Neil (2-14 in ten overs) slowed things down.



IMPRESSIVE: Jamie Ryan, left, and Josh Digby.

Ryan, who has inherited the nickname "Squolders" since arriving at



Portchester, ripped the heart out of the Idlers batting with a 5-42

return, while Paul Hungerford got amongst the visitors' tail.

Idlers were bowled out for 132 in the 32nd over - and were then put to the sword by Ryan (69 not out) and Curtis Locke (29 not out), who added 107 in just 14 overs.

"It was a really pleasing all-round display. We dragged the game back well after Idlers had made that flying start. We caught well too," said skipper Hungerford.

Portsmouth & Southsea, who expect to be among the front runners, comfortably chased down Fareham & Crofton's 258 to win by seven wickets.

Earlier, it looked as though Fareham might post a score in excess of 300, but the tremendous start Luke Gould (66) and Ed White (57) gave them tended to go to waste.

P & S had an on-field injury or two but it didn't prevent them from steaming home on the back of Cape Town's Ash Wallace (64) and for-

GOT A CRICKET STORY? EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Local Cricket Spotlight

Life is going well for Wilts!

TOP of the Southern Electric Premier League and regional finalists in the ECB Kingfisher Cup national club championships.

Life could hardly be better for South Wilts CC!

Twenty-four hours after cementing themselves top of the Premier Division log with a 64-run win over Totton & Eling, they sent shock waves through western cricket circles by send-

ing mighty Bath spinning out of the ECB Kingfisher Cup national club championships.

Bath, who have twice reached Lord's finals and are frequently still in the competition at the national semi-final stage, fancied their chances after bowling South Wilts out for a modest 179.

But the current

Southern Electric Premier League leaders hit back to skittle Bath for 116 – the visitors slumping to 52-6 at one stage.

South Wilts hit the ground running with opening pair Steve Riddle (36) and Tom Morton (34) putting on 73 in ten overs. Their stand effectively winning the game.

As Bath tightened their grip, so South Wilts lost their way, dropping to 129-7 (Owen Alsop 24) before man-of-the-match James Haggarty struck a breezy 31 to lift the final total to 179.

Now it's either Welsh champions Sully or Panteg (who play tomorrow) who will visit Bemerton in the Group final on June 17.



South Wilts CC: Standing (left-right): Tom Alsop, Tom Morton, Steve Warner, Steve Riddle, Glenn Maxwell, Dom Ducillier. Front: Eddie Abel, James Hibberd, James Hayward, Tom Morton, Rob Franklin.

mer United Services all-rounder Lewis Russell (53).

St Cross' newly promoted third team chased down a daunting Bashley (Rydal) total of 295-6 to snatch a second consecutive CD1 win off the penultimate ball.

Josh Digby batted the 50-over duration of the Bashley innings to make a career-best 112 not out.

But he found himself upstaged by South African Grant Edgar, who cracked a century of his own for St Cross off just 65 balls.

Edgar and Rob Nevin (61) shared a 167-run second-wicket partnership for St Cross, for whom Steve Berryman made a breezy 44 before the visitors clinched a thrilling two-wicket win.

Ryde skipper Laurence Tolfrey described Dale



DALE HACKETT

Hackett's unbeaten century against Hook & Newnham Basics as one of the best he had seen.

Graham Buckingham, with one six and 15 fours in his 98, enjoyed a 148-run start to the Hook innings with Colin Hall (61), which former Oakley batsman Andy Robinson (76 not out) improved.

But less than 300 on Hook's KGV 'road' isn't a guaranteed winner.

Hackett, with 18 boundaries in a classy 125 not out, and Tolfrey (58) got Ryde to 134-1, after which quick-fire knocks from Tom Morgan (38) and John Zaccardi (47 not out) settled affairs with three overs left.

It's a long trek from Lymington to Midhurst – and when Jim Stevenson lost the toss, the inevitable happened.

Three hours in the field and a 289-run leather chase followed ...

Tim Powell (97) and Tom Atkins (84) cashed in before Alex Cox (4-23) helped bowl Lymington out for 132.

One consolation: Cowdray Park is a beautiful place to go and there's always polo

or a society wedding going on in The Ruins to relieve the boredom of fetching the ball from the boundary!

Ellingham haven't won a match either – Purbrook celebrating a second consecutive win by 45 runs.

Purbrook made 173-9 (John Holder 48) and Aaron Dean took 5-22 to mow Ellingham down for 128.

Newly promoted Rowledge II bowled Alton II out for 163 and romped to a nine-wicket win on the strength of an unbeaten 77 from Chris Brisden and a half-century by Nick Morant (55).

veteran left-arm spinner Chris Yates faces a lengthy spell on the sidelines after breaking his right thumb and dislocating an index finger in the opening CD1 match against St Cross III.

Double woe

JOSH Buckingham, Hook & Newnham Basics' promising young batsman, was rushed to hospital with serious knee injuries sustained early in the club's 26-run defeat by Southern Electric Premier League Division 2 defeat at Hambledon last weekend.

The 21-year old 'keeper collapsed in agony after turning to chasing the ball in the field just minutes after the start at Ridge Meadow.

Buckingham, whose leg is now in plaster from his groin to the tips of his toes, has suffered cruciate ligament and cartilage damage.

"I was trying to throw the ball off one leg, so to speak. My spikes got stuck in the ground and I twisted my knee," he explained.

"To say I'm gutted is an understatement."

Ironically, the same fate befell evergreen Fawley batsman Andy Parratt, who collapsed with similar knee problems 13 runs short of his century against Totton & Eling at the Linden Oval.

Parratt was running between the wickets when he fell, dislocating his knee cap and suffering internal injuries.



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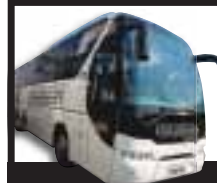
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Saints sponsors aap3 give reporter a day to remember ...



LOSERS: The customers/partners side.

NOT many members of the public can say they have played at St Mary's.

And I'm sure no-one else has done so with a footballing CV that includes the might of Royale Marine FC and Testwood Baptist Church reserves.

Until this week, my 11-a-side career had been restricted to playing at the likes of Green Park, Millbrook and Riverside Park, from where I was once grateful to escape from a game with a broken finger.

That is a long story, but suffice to say it was where my career as a non-scoring target man in Southampton's Junior Leagues came to an end more than a decade ago.

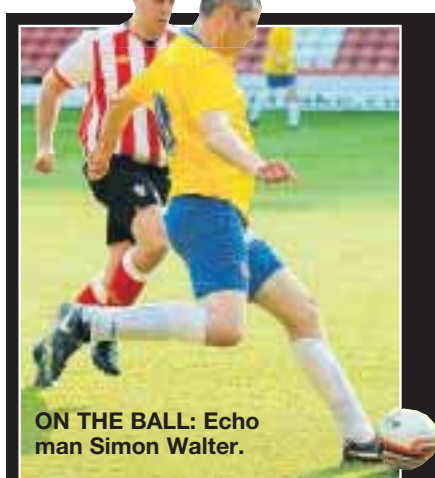
Thanks to aap3, which has had a memorable first season as Saints' sponsors, I had the privilege of playing on the banks of the River Itchen once again – but this time at the city's most palatial football venue.

On a blisteringly hot afternoon, I lined up for aap3's customers and partners.

We met each other for the first time an hour before kick-off and it showed, as we were thumped 6-2 by the Southampton-based business and IT solutions company.

We were given use of the home changing room but the slate remained clean on Nigel Adkins' tactics board, which we had more use for as a towel rail.

Although we are not the first 'away' side to have lost heavily at St Mary's, even Saints have only scored six there once before (against Tranmere Rovers in the League Cup back in



ON THE BALL: Echo man Simon Walter.

Simon Walter

simon.walter@dailyecho.co.uk

October 2002).

But this was about the experience, not the result.

Well, that's what we told each other.

At least now I can say I've played on the same beautiful surface graced by AFC Stoneham and Bush Hill FC in this year's Southampton Senior Cup final.

The last time I walked on the St Mary's turf was as one of thousands

as Saints celebrated promotion a month ago.

I had also walked up and down the tunnel before. But doing so with a notebook and pen is not the same as hearing the clatter of studs underfoot as you make your way out on to the turf.

Apart from the intense heat (the temperatures felt oven-like at pitch level), the first thing that strikes you as you walk out of the tunnel is the sheer size of the St Mary's pitch.

Even with a squad of 20 and rolling substitutes, just getting through the 90 minutes was suddenly a daunting prospect.

The day Nigel's tactics board was used as a towel rail ...

Sadly for one teammate, the match was over before it began.

Just as he was explaining how his physio had given him the all-clear, he attempted to connect with a ball in the warm-up and promptly aggravated an Achilles tear.

Football can be very cruel sometimes.

There were other injuries (admittedly, we weren't the best conditioned side) but despite the ridiculous temperatures, no-one went down with heat exhaustion.

Thanks to copious supplies of Hildon Water, we stayed hydrated and had good reason to furnish the

urinals used by Adkins and co.

The conditions meant we played at 1970 World Cup pace, but there the similarities ended.

We wore yellow and blue, but did not play like Brazil.

And I did not do a very good impersonation of Richard Chaplow down the right flank, with two of the goals down to my failure to track back.

We trailed 3-0 at half time and it was soon 6-0 following two goals that Rickie Lambert would be proud of.

But at least we grabbed a couple of consolations.

The first was priceless to the goalscorer, who netted in front of the Northam Stand, where he has a season ticket.

Based in Chilworth, aap3's payroll is packed with Saints fans and they generously made room for three lucky competition winners to share in a memorable day.

Our players had travelled from as far as Cardiff while our best player picked up the man-of-the-match award having flown in from Cuba on the morning of the game.

We even played with a Pompey fan who had the audacity (as well as the bravery, given the heat) to wear his side's colours underneath his Saints shirt.

Back in the Markus Liebherr Lounge, our token Pompey fan then won the signed Saints shirt in the post-match raffle!

It helped raise more than £1,000 for the Saints Foundation, completing a productive end to an enjoyable afternoon.

Many thanks, aap3!



WINNERS: The aap3 team that won their friendly at St Mary's

Southampton Saints Girls & Ladies spotlight ...



SAINTS UNDER-11s

SOUTHAMPTON SAINTS GIRLS AND LADIES FC HONOURS 2011/12

First team ladies: Southampton Divisional FA Cup Champions.

The team also plays in in South West Combination League, the fourth level on the English women's football pyramid.

Under 15/16s: Winchester & District Girls League U16 champions, Cardington League Cup winners & Stein Cup winners.

Under 14s: New Forest Girls League champions and League Cup winners. Hampshire FA County Cup winners. Southern Inter Counties Football League winners (W&DGFL Rep Team).

Under 12s: W&DGFL champions and League Cup winners.

Under 11s: W&DGFL champions and League Cup winners.

Under 10s: W&DGFL runners up & League Cup winners.

AWARDS

Under 10s
Most Improved: Emily Gook and

Lisa Gilham
Effort and Commitment: Kia Anteney
Player of the Year: Jennifer King.

Under 11s
Most Improved: Eleanor Elsey
Players Player: Chloe Davey
Player of the Year: Rebecca Quinn.

Under 12s
Most Improved: Rachel Harman
Players Player: Leah Brown
Player of the Year: Georgia Rose Mears.

Under 14s
Most Improved: Millie Peake
Players Player: Coral Oakley
Player of the Year: Tiff Eley.

Under 15/16s
Most Improved: Bonnie Browning
Players Player: Rebecca Tonks
Player of the Year: Georgina Axton.

First Team Ladies
Most Improved: Kat Littleboy
Players Player: Hannah Haughton
Player of the Year: Hannah Haughton.



SAINTS UNDER-12s



SAINTS UNDER-16s LEAGUE WINNERS



SAINTS UNDER-10s



SAINTS UNDER-10s AT AWARDS NIGHT



SAINTS UNDER-14s' HAMPSHIRE CUP WINNERS

So much to shout about!

OVER 200 people crowded into The Dockers Club for Southampton Saints G&LFC's annual awards gala.

It was an event to celebrate a string of 2011/12 achievements for the club.

Club press office Brian Eley said: "Club Chairman Mike Castle welcomed all to the glittering showcase evening and began by reminding everyone what the club is all about.

"Mike said that Southampton Saints G&LFC offer opportunities for female footballers to have fun, and to develop both as individuals and team players.

"He hopes the exciting youth set up would be inspired by the first team and that they would aspire to join with them in due course.

"The youth set up is pivotal to taking the club forward.

"There was a reminder, though, that while the club committee does it all it can to support this, there are considerable overheads involved and the club is looking for more sponsorship and help.

"The committee hoped that maybe Southampton FC would consider getting back involved with



THANKS A LOT: Julie White receives flowers for her behind the scenes work.

them, or at least make some resources available to support and build on their considerable success.

"Many of Saints Ladies' major competitors receive the backing of their local professional and semi-professional clubs.

"In a nutshell, it means that this type of support is needed if they are to compete on a level playing field and be given real opportunity to nurture the obvious local talent.

"On behalf of the club, Mike congratulated the men's team on their promotion to the Premier League and hoped that the hierarchy might consider backing the female game in the very near future so they, too, might taste football at a comparable level in the not too distant future."

First team manager Adam Lee also reminded players and audience of the fantastic job the committee do in the background.

He highlighted the roles of Rachel Murray (club secretary), Tracey Wheeler (treasurer), Jan Fry and Julie White (fund raising officers) along with lead officers Mike Castle, Barry Fry and Brian Eley.

Lee said the youth success was not by accident and managers Chrissy Murray, Krystal Whyte, Barry Fry and Peter Horne, supported by all the coaches, should "take a bow."

SOUTHERN
Daily Echo

FIND THE BALL



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Mark an X with a ballpoint pen on the picture where you consider that position to be – clear rubber stamps and self adhesive labels will also be accepted.

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The nearest-miss prize will be paid out to the competitor whose cross is nearest to the centre of the ball when there is no jackpot winner.

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The jackpot for the following week will be £26,000 with £1,000 being added each week. The nearest miss prize will be £2,000 with £50 added each week until the jackpot prize reaches £50,000.

If there is still no entry showing the exact centre of the ball, the process is repeated until there is an exact centre of the ball winner.

If there is more than one winner the jackpot will be shared and, similarly, if there is more than one runner-up the nearest miss prize will also be shared.

RESULTS



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Mrs A Humphrey, Southampton, Hants	Mrs S Shelley, Southampton, Hants
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Daily Echo

Local Cricket Spotlight

MORE WOE FOR T20 CUP

THE Southern Electric Premier League is bracing itself for its popular Sunday afternoon twenty20 knockout competition to be plunged into further chaos.

If tomorrow's weather forecast holds true, five second round ties could be washed out, leaving competition organisers with another headache, **writes MIKE VIMPA-NY.**

It is already way behind schedule.

This season's t20 seemed destined to be fraught with problems from the outset.

The ECB directed all 26 of its accredited Premier Leagues to get their domestic t20s done and dusted by mid-July so their own nationwide competition - in which the winner of each plays - could be played in August and finished in time for the Sky televised final at Edgbaston in early September.

It meant the SPL's Electric Cup competition having to be shoe-horned into an early season start and completed by July 19 - a month earlier than the Premier League wanted.

Cue the appalling weather at the start of the season - and chaos!

Even now, two of the 15 first round ties have still to be played - and won't be for a week or two yet, due to the likes of Havant and South Wilts going well in the ECB's Kingfisher Cup and Paultons in the village competition.

"It's a nightmare scenario," says SPL chairman Paul Thompson. "We need every available Sunday from now on to get the competition finished. It is already one round behind schedule and if the weather forecast is right - and fingers crossed it's wrong - there will be even more re-arranging to be done."

Bar and refreshment income from Sunday afternoon Electric t20 Cup ties are now critical for recreational cricket clubs sent into financial meltdown by the loss of income by the welter of pre and early season

Linden 'honoured' by venue renaming

TOTTEN & Eling CC's Linden Oval cricket ground was officially re-named this week.

Work to bring the ground back to life began in 2009 when Linden Homes - as part of its Brunswick Park development - began the process of turning the somewhat dilapidated former Totton Sports Club (formerly known as the BAT Sports and Social Club) into the modern and attractive entity it is today.

Matt Paine, Managing Director of Linden Homes Southern, said: "The old sports and social club had been due to close in 2006.

"But when we took over the site for development, the new plans included details for a brand new cricket pavilion and clubhouse.

"It was extremely important to us to also save the Totton and Eling cricket pitch and tennis courts.

"We also built a new 100 metre square play area for children.

"The new facilities provide a busy social hub as well as a popular and thriving cricket club.

"We're honoured by the choice of name the club has chosen."

The Brunswick Park site was just one of three Linden Homes' projects in the area.

At the Little Testwood Farm site, Linden Homes built a brand new home ground for AFC Totton and a second pitch, next to it, for Totton and Eling FC (formerly BAT FC).

Picture (from left) Matt Paine, Managing Director of Linden Homes Southern; under-15 cricketer Molly Edmondson; Robert Kinch, Chairman of Totton & Eling CC

postponements.

The likes of Sarisbury Athletic (v Ventnor) and Totton & Eling, who host the travelling Hook Army (Hook & Newnham Basics) will make tomorrow's scheduled home ties a party affair.

"We've got a DJ lined up, the bar open and food laid on. Twenty20

days are always good occasions at the Linden Oval," says Totton Sports Club manager Simon Preston.

Totton, like Sarisbury Athletic, will get several hundred people watching the home ties at their grounds - and that equates to vital revenue across the bar and refresh-

ment counters.

If the weather holds, Hartley Wintney will play Lymington on the historic Cricket Green tomorrow, and the much fancied Hampshire Academy go to St Cross Symondians for a 2pm start.

The other t20 tie sees Fawley take on 2010 Electric Cup winners,

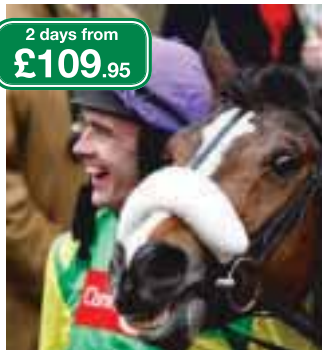
Bashley (Rydal) at Holbury.

* It's county semi-finals day in the Yorkshire Tea Village Cup tomorrow, with Easton & Martyr Worthy facing Longparish, and Paultons playing Ropley at Whitemoor Lane.

Across the county boundary, Rowledge are favourites to beat Surrey rivals Wreclsham.

Daily Echo

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LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



It will be tough for McMillan

BOTH Great Britain sides know they will have to pull off a massive shock to reach the quarter-finals of this summer's Olympic handball competition.

The men, led by Serb Dragan Djukic and likely to contain Dan McMillan from the New Forest, have arguably the toughest challenge.

They were drawn in the same group as reigning champions France, current silver medallists Iceland, Argentina and Tunisia, who both handed out a recent thrashing to GB, and Sweden.

Spain, Croatia, Hungary, Serbia, Denmark and South Korea made up Group B.

Oddly, it was Djukic that chose which group his side would go in as the host nation had the privilege of deciding who to play once the rest of the teams had been drawn.

However, Djukic's desire to play against two non-European sides swayed his decision.

"It was our plan from the beginning to pick the group with two non-European sides in," he said.

"If you have to choose between playing Denmark, one of the



DAN McMILLAN

strongest teams on the planet, or Argentina, then every coach in the world would pick Argentina.

"I would have preferred Korea but not everything is like a fairytale.

"But I am happy, our wish is to compete and make one of the biggest ever surprises in handball.

"I hope the boys believe we can play against them. We have to play against France who are Olympic and world champions and that is going to be hard.

"But if we get through that experience we have a chance. For me, the quarter-finals is a dream."

The women may make a better fist of it and will harbour realistic hopes of making the knockout stages of the competition after Jesper Holmris also opted to send his side into Group A to face Montenegro, Russia, Croatia, Brazil and Angola.

Norway, Spain, Denmark, France, Sweden and Korea are in Group B.

GB famously beat African champions Angola in November's test event at the Copper Box and that was the reasoning behind the Dane's choice.

GB did not even have a handball team prior to London being awarded the Games in 2005 and both teams were put together with the intention of competing this summer.



RICHARD FAULDS

HAMPSHIRE'S Richard Faulds has just about seen it all during his long Olympic shooting career, but accepts taking aim at a home Games in London will be unique.

Team GB will compete across all three disciplines on the Olympic shooting programme – shotgun, pistol and rifle – at the Royal Artillery Barracks in Woolwich, with a 10-strong team announced this week.

Longparish-based Faulds qualified for the final of the 1996 Atlanta Games on Olympic debut at the age of 19, and has won four World Championships, but the 35-year-old veteran campaigner accepts London 2012 will be something



PETER WILSON

special.

"It is a unique experience, being on home turf is an experience any athlete would look forward to," said Faulds.

"We have had the test event, the venue is great and we are all really

looking forward to August."

Faulds added: "London will be extra special.

"It is a great opportunity for friends and family who would otherwise maybe not have the chance to see us perform at an Olympic level.

"Also, it is a great opportunity for us to open this up to a whole new audience.

"With the event being where it is, hopefully it will be a sell-out and give the chance to promote the sport to a wider range of people who may not have experienced it before."

Dorset's Peter Wilson is the current world number one, setting a new world record at the

World Cup in Tucson earlier this year, and will compete alongside Faulds in the double trap.

The 25-year-old Dorchester sharp-shooter, who won the 2011 World Cup and European Championship title, is relishing the opportunity to shine at London 2012.

"I have been training relentlessly for the last six years just to have this opportunity, and it really is a dream come true," he said.

"Having a crowd of any size right behind you is always very special, but it's going to be such a boost to have the home nation behind me.

"Thankfully I tend to raise my game when it matters."

Shirley the best ever!

DOUBLE Olympic champion Shirley Robertson believes Great Britain's London 2012 sailing team is the best she has ever seen.

The 16-strong squad, which boasts four former gold medallists, goes into this summer's Games with the weight of expectation firmly on their shoulders.

Sailing remains one of Britain's most fruitful Olympic pursuits, and their success in the sport is unrivalled on the world stage.

Cowes-based Robertson, who won gold at Sydney and Athens, said: "It's the strongest team we've ever seen, for sure.

"It's rare that you can look at all the disciplines and say they all could medal.

"We've never been in that position before."

Shoo-in

Headlining the Skandia Team GBR squad is three-time Olympic champion Ben Ainslie.

Robertson believes the Lymington-based superstar is a shoo-in for a fourth gold medal, and a third in the Finn class.

"I think even if Ben broke his leg he could probably still win gold," she said. "He wouldn't agree with that, but he could.

"His biggest battle was for the British place (against Giles Scott). He's way ahead in that fleet.

"I'm not saying winning gold is easy, but his big battle was last year to win that



Gordon Simpson

gordon.simpson@dailyecho.co.uk

SPORTS REPORTER

place."

Robertson also has high hopes for Southampton-born Iain Percy, who already has two Olympic golds to his name.

He will compete in the Star class alongside Andrew Simpson, who won in Beijing with Percy, as the

duo seek revenge on the Brazilian pair that snatched the world title from them earlier this month (May).

"Iain Percy is always either first or second," said Robertson. "A big battle with Robert Scheidt from Brazil and I think we'll see him again doing well."

Former Southampton Solent University student Paul Goodison, who will defend the Laser crown he

won in Beijing this summer, rounds off the list of former Olympic champions.

But Robertson is just as enthused about the crop of young stars coming through, such as newly crowned 470 world champion Hannah Mills, who sails with Saskia Clark.

"You see in this team, there's not just the oldies who have won before, but there's a whole new crop,"

said the 43-year-old, who will front the BBC's Olympic sailing coverage.

"For example, Hannah was youth world champion and she's been nurtured from a young age. She's used to winning, she's used to racing at a high level, so even though she's really young she's used to performing.

"There's a whole load of them who are that age who are ready to medal."

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE OLYMPICS IN THE SPORTS PINK

LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN

May the fourth be with Ben – and I'm sure it will be!

BEN CAN CARRY THE BURDEN: Ben Ainslie, foreground, with the rest of the GB sailing squad. Stephen Park is on the far right.



BEN Ainslie has the shoulders to burden the weight of expectation and clinch a fourth Olympic gold medal this summer.

That is the view of British sailing chief Stephen Park, writes **GERARD MEAGHER**.

Lymington-based Ainslie, 35, will compete at his fifth Olympics in Weymouth having seen off stiff competition from domestic rivals Giles Scott and Ed Wright to seal the sole British London 2012 spot in the Finn class.

The standard-bearer of British sailing, Skandia Team GBR sailor Ainslie is synonymous with Blighty's Olympic success on the waters and after a silver at Atlanta 1996 he has won gold in Sydney, Athens and Beijing.

With the Olympics returning to the capital for the first time in 64 years, the pressure on nine-time world champion Ainslie to succeed off the south coast intensifies further, especially after he was victorious at last summer's London 2012 test event.

But Park, who received an OBE for guiding Great Britain to a record-breaking medal haul of six at Beijing 2008, is convinced the hype is water off a duck's back for Ainslie.

"Ben will take all of the expectation in his stride," said Park.

"He's a four-time Olympian and he's been there before and has dealt with the additional interest and

London 2012 –Skandia Sailing Team GBR

Men: Ben Ainslie (Finn)
Paul Goodison (Laser)
Iain Percy & Andrew Simpson (Star)
Luke Patience & Stuart Bithell (470)
Ben Rhodes & Steve Morrison (49er)
Nick Dempsey (RS:X)

Women: Alison Young (Radial)
Hannah Mills & Saskia Clark (470)
Lucy Macgregor, Kate Macgregor & Annie Lush (Elliot 6m)
Bryony Shaw (RS:X)

TEAM GBR RECENT OLYMPIC SAILING RECORD

BEIJING 2008

GOLD

Sarah Ayton, Sarah Webb, Pippa Wilson – Yngling class
Ben Ainslie – Finn class
Paul Goodison – Men's Laser class
Iain Percy, Andrew – Men's Star class 21st

SILVER

Jonathan Glanfield/ Nick Rogers – Men's 470

BRONZE

Bryony Shaw – Women's RS:X

ATHENS 2004

GOLD

Ben Ainslie – Finn class
Sarah Ayton, Shirley Robertson, Sarah Webb – Yngling class

SILVER

Jonathan Glanfield/Nick Rogers – Men's 470 class

BRONZE

Nick Dempsey – Men's sailboard
Chris Draper, Simon Hiscocks – 49er class

SYDNEY 2000

GOLD

Ben Ainslie – Men's laser class
Iain Percy – Men's finn class
Shirley Robertson – Women's Europe class individual

SILVER

Ian Barker and Simon Hiscocks – Men's 49er class
Mark Covell and Ian Walker – Men's Star class

interest and the trappings of being a successful athlete.

"All the sailors know what they need to do and we're putting in place the support that they need to perform to their potential."

Having overseen a British team that garnered four gold medals, a silver and a bronze at Beijing 2008, and with home advantage on his side this time around, predictions that even more will follow at London 2012 are to be expected.

Park is urging caution, however, and instead setting his sights on a minimum of four medals – bemoaning the fact that he is not able to pick Scott and Wright as well in the hope that Ainslie would lead a British 1-2-3.

"The fact that we are medal competitive in 100 per cent of events, across the ten Olympic events, is fantastic and it's pretty unheard of," he said.

"It would be better if they were all world champions running into the Olympics but let's be realistic, there is no other team in the world that's fielding medal contenders in every event.

"For our side it's disappointing that people like Ed and Giles are missing out, from our point of view we would rather have them and in there with a chance of winning more than one medal in the Finn class."

Investment specialist Skandia is the principal sponsor of the British sailing team. For more information go to www.skandiateamgb.com

Nick aims to go out on a high

NICK DEMPSEY is only too aware that the wind will be taken out of his sails after London 2012, and he's dropped a major hint that it's now or never if he's to add Olympic gold to his cluttered medal collection.

The 31-year-old will see his RS:X windsurfing event removed from the Olympic schedule after this Games, and after finishing fourth at Beijing 2008, he's desperate to ensure he doesn't miss out again.

Dempsey has demonstrated his form this year, finishing second at the World Championships in March, and he has previous at the London 2012 venue in Weymouth, scooping world gold back in 2009.

Next week Dempsey will embark on his final dress rehearsal off the English south coast, locking horns with his Olympic rivals at the 2012 Skandia Sail for Gold Regatta.

And while Dempsey, who won Olympic bronze at Athens 2004 in the Mistral class, admits he's not yet reached his peak, he's not about to let any of his rivals steal a march in Weymouth.

"It should be a harder fleet next week than at the Olympics, everyone going to the Games will be there, plus a few others so it's a perfect test for us," he said.

"It's a good chance to get a look at your rivals, you get the chance to have a look at them in training but not all together in the same place like this is going to be.

"You have to put your ego on the line and race flat out next week, and if you don't win it you have to deal with the consequences.

"If you win it, it's a massive confidence



NICK DEMPSEY

builder and great way to get one over your rivals.

"But I don't think I'm quite ready to win yet, there's still work that needs to be done."

Dempsey is the first to admit that he found finishing fourth in Beijing a bitter pill to swallow and it has been the driving force behind pursuing an assault on London 2012 while wife and doubles Olympic gold medalist Sarah Ayton has since called time on her career.

With kiteboarding replacing windsurfing on the Rio 2016 programme, it remains to be seen what the future holds.

But for the time being, all that concerns Dempsey, is ending his Olympic windsurfing career on the top of the podium.

"The gold medal is it, my life is made if I can do it. It's exciting, I don't need any motivation but make no mistake I'm nervous as well," he added.

"This is as big as it gets, and it's going to be my last Olympics windsurfing.

"It's just unbelievable, this is as good as it could ever be, my last Olympics as a windsurfer, in front of a home crowd, going for gold, it's amazing."

Investment specialist Skandia is the principal sponsor of the British sailing team. For more information go to www.skandiateamgb.com

HAVE YOU GOT AN OLYMPIC STORY? EMAIL echosport@dailyecho.co.uk

Kelly: No way is Jess 'fat'

ISLE of Wight star Kelly Sotherton has defended Jessica Ennis over criticism of her weight and backed the Sheffield athlete to win heptathlon gold at this summer's Olympics.

Ennis went into the Hypo meeting in Gotzis last weekend to the backdrop of bizarre reports that a senior figure at UK Athletics had labelled her "fat".

She answered any critics with a British record score of 6,906 points, 75 more than Denise Lewis' previous mark and 83 in excess of her own personal best.

And Sotherton, looking ahead to the Games in London, "she will (get gold), it's going to be tricky but she's got every attribute to win gold.

"She looks like she's coming good at just the right time, she got a personal best and beat Denise Lewis' British record.

"She's such a strong personality and having that home crowd is only going to help her."

On the claims over Ennis' weight, Sotherton added: "She is bigger, but she's not fat. She's strong, she's a much stronger-looking athlete, and I bet come the Olympics she will look amazing.

"In two months' time, the stress and the worry and shaping up for the Olympics, she will be even smaller. She's so tiny. I do think it's a bit uncalled-for, the 'fat' jibes."



SOTHERTON ENNIS

Sotherton, Ennis' predecessor as Britain's heptathlon golden girl, publicly announced her retirement last weekend after injury ended her own bid to qualify for London.

She said: "I had prolapsed discs two years ago and it was always a 50-50 chance of me making the Olympics.

"I had to make sure I gave myself the chance of making it, I didn't want to have any regrets.

"I probably could have just run (the 400 metres) this year and been safer, and could maybe have just scraped into the team for the relay, but it wouldn't have been what I wanted to do.

"I find just doing one event a bit boring. When you've had a life of doing seven events, it's less interesting just running round a track."

Retirement brings the curtain down on a career highlighted by bronze medals at the Athens Olympics and the 2007 World Championships in Osaka and a Commonwealth title in Melbourne in 2006.

In the pentathlon, Sotherton won silver at the World Indoors in Valencia in 2008 to go with European Indoor silvers in Madrid from 2005 and Birmingham in 2007.

She said: "I was a natural runner and jumper, throwing was pretty hard. Even though I got to grips with the shot-put, the javelin was hard.

"It let me down in quite a few championships and I could have won a handful of medals.

"But I think I've had a distinguished career.

"If you'd have said before I started, 'would you like all these medals?', I'd have said 'yes please!'"



LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



I can pile pressure on Daley

OLYMPIC platform champion Matthew Mitcham believes his presence in London this summer will add further pressure on home favourite Tom Daley.

Mitcham was included in Australia's diving team this week despite failing to meet the selection criteria following nine months out with injury.

The 24-year-old broke the Chinese dominance in Beijing four years ago and, after building up his preparations over the past three months, thinks he can return to the podium.

With China's world champion Qiu Bo and Lin Yue likely to claim a medal that would seemingly leave Mitcham in a shoot-out with Daley, who scored a personal best 565.05 as

he won the European title this month.

"People don't expect me to defend my title because I have been out of the pool for almost a year," Mitcham told reporters.

"I feel that is working to my advantage. I believe I can win gold again in London. I've done it before and know what it takes.

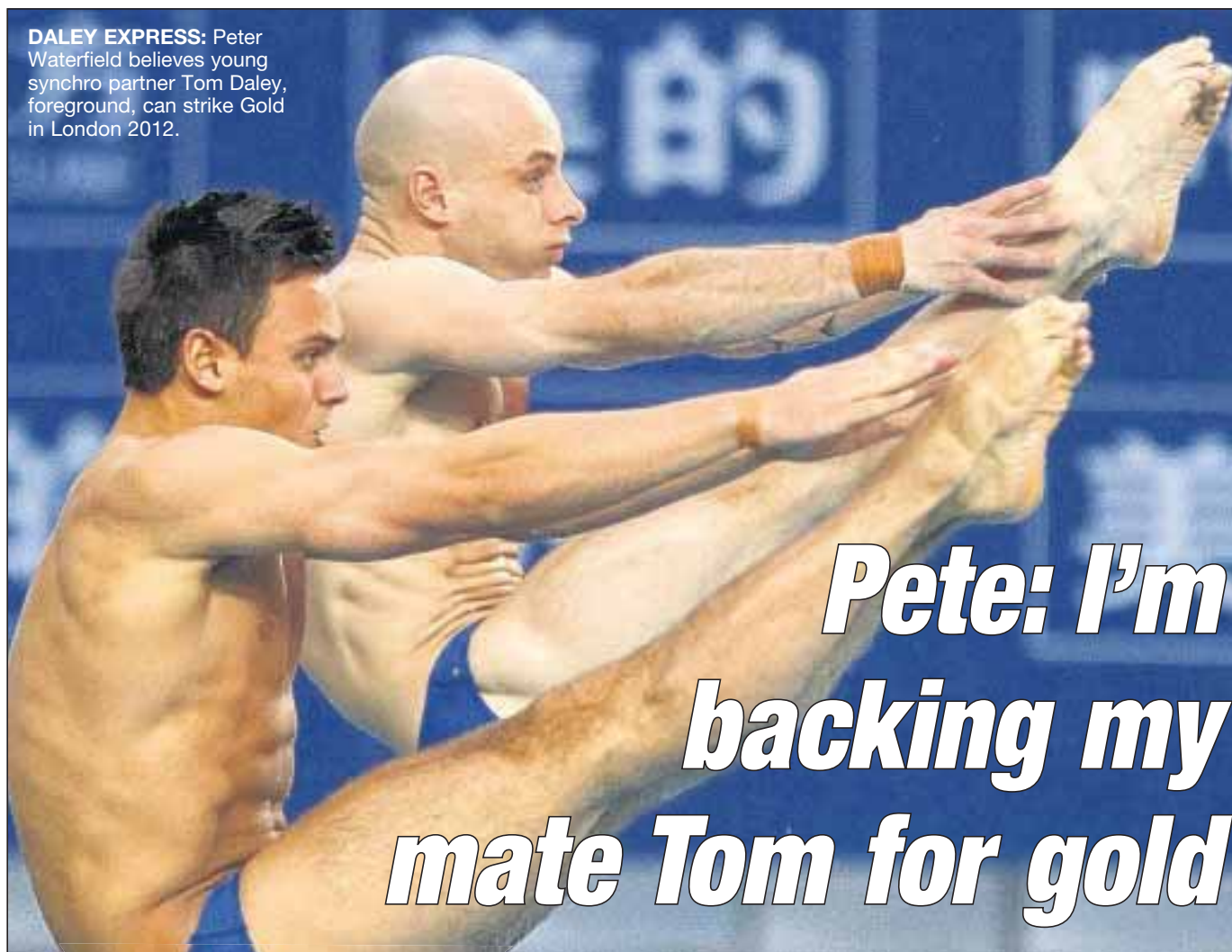
"(And) poor Tom. He's got the pressure at being at a home Games - I don't envy the position he is in.

"Tom is one of the best in the world, but the Chinese are still the best in the world.

"I'm just concerned about myself and my preparation.

"That's all I can control - how I dive."

DALEY EXPRESS: Peter Waterfield believes young synchro partner Tom Daley, foreground, can strike Gold in London 2012.



TOM Daley's 10 metre platform synchro partner Pete Waterfield has backed the teenager to win gold at this summer's London Olympics.

Daley has sprung into medal contention in the past three months after a timely return to his best.

The 18-year-old former world champion has finished no lower than second in his past five major international meets, culminating in him reclaiming the European platform title in Eindhoven recently.

Daley managed that with a personal-best 565.05 - a total that

would have won him gold in Beijing four years ago.

"What a great performance from Tom at the European Championships - he's on his best form and in some ways I'm sorry I wasn't there to see it (and give him a bit of extra competition)," said Southampton-based Waterfield, who missed the meet with a neck injury.

"I'm definitely tipping him for a medal and if he carries on like this it will be gold."

Waterfield, an Olympic silver medallist in 2004 at Athens alongside Leon Taylor, believes his partnership with Daley can spur both on to greater heights at the Olympics.

The pair will join forces in the

platform synchro - where they are expected to challenge for the medals - before going head-to-head in the individual.

"People sometimes ask if it's strange to be on a team with Tom for the synchro but then competing against him in the individual. To be honest I don't see it as a conflict," said Waterfield, who beat Daley at last year's British Championships.

"I want him to dive well when he's with me - we both benefit if either one of us ups their performances.

"Both of us are going to push each other towards that top spot."

Waterfield revealed his neck complaint had left him in hospital last week while Daley was winning in Eindhoven.

The 31-year-old has struggled with injuries over the past six months - to throw some doubt over whether he can stay fit to join Daley in London.

"While Tom was dazzling at the Euros, I was lying flat on my back on a hospital bed," he said.

"It was quite a terrifying experience because I needed an injection right into my spine to ease the neck injury that's been hampering me.

"It was one big needle and the worst thing was I could see it going in on the x-rays.

"Apart from the pain from the big hole in my skin where the injection went in, things are feeling better so touch wood I'll be injury free for the run-up to London."

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LONDON 2012 OLYMPICS COUNTDOWN



FLYING THE FLAG: Luke Patience, left, and Stuart Bithell.

WATER WIN FOR ME!

"I'VE been sailing once before," I proudly proclaim to the group of Olympians in front of me.

"How did you get on?" someone asks.

"Well," I begin to say, slightly more sheepishly, "I capsized".

The memory of plunging into those cold waters off Salcombe, in Devon, as a teenager is nagging away at me as I head to the Isle of Wight for the launch of the 2012 Aberdeen Asset Management Cowes Week.

I'm off to meet four of Great Britain's top medal hopes for this summer's London Games.

And I'm not just there to interview them – I am also sailing with one of them.

In a race, no less.

After their laughter subsides, I'm confidently informed by the Skandia Team GBR members that I won't be capsizing today.

I'm pretty sure the sailing instructor told me the same thing all those years ago, but I'm a little more willing to believe this lot.

The unfortunate soul who is given the task of looking after me is 470 class sailor Luke Patience.

I can't help but think he might need that particular characteristic in nature, as well as name, with me in his boat.

Alongside us is a fellow journalist, Ruth, who is without sailing experience of her own.

Hopes, as you can imagine, are not especially high.

Undaunted, though, we strut down from the opulent Royal Yacht



RETIRE NOW! Gordon Simpson, left, helps Olympian Luke Patience to overall victory off Cowes.

Gordon Simpson

gordon.simpson@dailyecho.co.uk

SPORTS REPORTER



Squadron, doing our best to at least look the part, and clamber aboard our SB20 boat.

Compared to the high-speed RIB that took us across from Southampton, this dinghy boat is certainly a change of pace.

But, sitting just inches from the water, it can feel pretty fast.

We're up against some of the world's best sailors.

Double Olympic champion Shirley Robertson is taking one of

the other teams, while Luke's 470 partner Stuart Bithell skippers another.

Then there is the intimidating presence of newly-crowned 470 world champions Hannah Mills and Saskia Clark, each in charge of their own little crew of journalists.

While the other boats sail serenely off, we are left playing catch up after being forced to fix a small problem on ours before leaving.

As we cruise out into the waters, I'm handed the job of steering.

Rather than steady, I'm probably more of a slightly quivering hand on the tiller, but I somehow help guide us into a podium finish in race one of three.

Yes, there's only five teams, but third place isn't too bad.

After a better start to race two, in which I'm now in charge of the jib sail, pulling on the ropes to try and keep us moving at speed, and Ruth is at the controls, we cruise home into second.

By the time the Royal Yacht Squadron's cannon signals the start of the third race, we're practically experts, carving through the water and tacking sharply, as we weave in and out of the other boats and shipping traffic in the Solent.

The whole experience is exhilarating – particularly the moment where we are sailing just inches from one of our rivals as we approach the finish line – and provides a spectacular insight into just why the Aberdeen Asset Management Cowes Week is so popular.

Once again, we end in second – amazingly, giving us gold overall.

So, I ask Luke, how did I do?

"You won," he says. "You're only as good as your last race, you can't teach a winner to do better than win. I would retire on that if I were you."

So, no late call up to the Olympics, it seems, but at least I now carry a happier sailing memory with me.

And I certainly look forward to returning to Cowes in August, when hopefully Luke and Co will be there to show off some brand new Olympic gold medals.

The 2012 Aberdeen Asset Management Cowes Week runs from August 11-18. For more information, visit aam-cowesweek.co.uk

We'll be so hard to beat

LUKE Patience believes that he and Stuart Bithell will be a hard team to beat in the 470 class at the Olympics, **writes GORDON SIMPSON.**

The duo will compete in their first ever Games when they take to the water in Weymouth at London 2012.

They already have a world championship silver medal to their names, from 2009, and are confident they have the ability to go one better this summer.

"There's very little that can happen now in terms of physical improvements," said Scotsman Patience.

"It's all about preparation, and making sure we put all the things in place which can facilitate us to be at our best on the day."

"It's not doing anything different to what we'd normally do, it's not reinventing the wheel."

"It's just doing the things that make us feel like we've worked hard every day and that we've left no stone unturned."

"If we can feel like that on race day one boy will be in a good place and a damn hard team to beat."

The 25-year-old knows that he and Bithell will face stiff competition, though, particularly from the dominant Australian and French teams.

"The Aussies, the French and us have proven to be the most common medals in the last sort of two-and-a-half years," said Patience.

"It's one of the tougher classes and there's some very strong teams out there."

"What I'm most confident about is that mine and Stuart's best performance is good enough to win gold, and that's a great position to be in."

'Best of British'

THIS year's Aberdeen Asset Management Cowes Week will welcome Great Britain's Olympic sailing team as part of the event's "Best of British" celebration.

The Skandia Team GBR members are due to attend the world famous regatta on Friday, August 12, just days after the 2012 Games in London.

With sailing traditionally one of Britain's most successful Olympic pursuits, there is every chance that there will be plenty of gold on display at Cowes this summer.

"We know that almost the whole GB sailing team's coming here, which will just be fantastic," said Cowes Week CEO Stuart Quarrie.

"We'll certainly make them welcome. "The way we're looking at it this year is that it will be a celebration of all that is best of British."

"It's the Queen's jubilee, it's the Olympics, the Paralympics."

"We expect that the GBR sailing team will excel themselves on home waters – we certainly hope so."

"There's so much going on in England and Britain this year."

"We're sort of towards the end of the season, so it should be a fantastic celebration of all of that."

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Horse Racing

BONFIRE CAN BURN OFF CAMELOT IN DERBY HEAT

BONFIRE can prove too hot for short-priced favourite Camelot in the Investec Derby at Epsom on Saturday.

Aidan O'Brien's Camelot is bidding to follow in the hoofprints of Sea The Stars three years ago by adding the premier Classic to his earlier victory in the 2000 Guineas.

However, Andrew Balding's Bonfire can spoil the party and help his trainer emulate his father Ian, who famously sent out the great Mill Reef to victory in 1971.

Bonfire certainly has something to find on the bare figures with Camelot but he will be having just his fourth career start here and remains on an upward trajectory.

Winner of a Salisbury maiden last September, Bonfire inspired enough confidence in connections to justify stepping him up to Group One level in France the next time.

He looked better than the bare form of his third place suggested as Bonfire managed to find trouble in running before staying on again.

Soft ground forced Balding to miss an intended debut at Chester this term, but being forced to wait for better ground in the Dante at York worked out well as Bonfire was all class on the Knavesmire.

He battled it with the race-fit Ektihaam that day and while Bonfire appeared to have to pull out all the stops, he was well in control at the line and might not have been quite as all-out as was first thought.

Many watchers felt his attitude that day counted against him as he was a little reluctant to go down to the start but he knuckled down well when it mattered and

whatever quirks he does have, they do not seem to affect him in a race.

Of course there must be some doubts about his pedigree as his sire Manduro showed his best up to ten furlongs, but he was also good enough to win the Prix Foy over a mile and a half and his sire, Monsun, was certainly not lacking for stamina.

Only two of the nine runners have actually won over the trip so there is a question mark over the majority, but Jimmy Fortune is shrewd enough to utilise his mount's strengths and snatch the glory.

Masked Marvel finished eighth in the Derby last year but he can go a fair few places better in the Diamond Jubilee Coronation cup.

John Gosden's charge went on to land the St Leger last September but he hardly looks an out-and-out stayer, so middle distances appear to be his forte.

An ill-advised crack at the Arc should be forgiven as Gosden fully admits it was a mistake on his behalf to run while the trainer has also stated Masked Marvel was in dire need of his seasonal debut at Newmarket last month.

The four-year-old finished a long way behind Al Kazeem in Group Two company that day but the easy ground was against him and after racing prominently, his lengthy winter break began to tell.

Masked Marvel is expected to strip much fitter this time and it will be a surprise if he is not challenging for top honours.

Bear Behind is the choice in the Investec Specialist Bank "Dash" while Euxton Hall can emerge victorious in the Investec Woodcote Stakes.



WINNING TEAM? Bonfire and Jimmy Fortune.

AS EPSOM prepares to officially launch the beginning of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations today, here we look at five of the best horses to have run for Her Majesty:

AUREOLE

Almost gave Her Majesty a fairytale victory in the Derby in Coronation year of 1953 when he was second to Pinza.

Trained by Captain Cecil Boyd-Rochford, he was also fifth in the 2000 Guineas and third in the St Leger. He went on to be the best older horse in Europe in 1954 with victories in the Coronation Cup, Hardwicke Stakes and King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Stakes.

PALL MALL

Also trained by Boyd-Rochford, he took the 1958 2000 Guineas to be the first Classic winner bred by Her Majesty. He justified the decision to keep him in training as a four-year-old by enhancing his reputation with victory in the Lockinge Stakes.

HOPEFUL VENTURE

Unraced as a two-year-old, he made a successful racecourse debut in the Wood Ditton Stakes before going on to greater things.

Second for the Noel Murless stable in the St Leger, he went on to become a high-class older horse, winning the Ormonde and the Hardwicke Stakes.

He also claimed the scalp of subsequent Arc hero Vaguely Noble in the 1968 Grand Prix de Saint-Cloud.

HIGHCLERE

Trainer Dick Hern got her ready to win the 1000 Guineas on her seasonal debut in heart-stopping fashion by a short head from Polygamy, who went on to lift the Oaks.

Highclere bypassed Epsom for the French Oaks (Prix de Diane) and is the only horse to win both races. She was also second to Dahlia in the King George and Queen Elizabeth Stakes.

DUNFERMLINE

This filly made the Queen's Silver Jubilee year of 1977 extra special with victory in not one Classic, but two. She won the Oaks despite suffering interference in running and then went on to Doncaster for the St Leger where she inflicted the only defeat on Alleged. She was also a creditable fourth behind that horse in the Arc.

EPSOM

Going: Derby: Good-Good to Firm in plcs: Sprint: Good to Firm-Good in plcs

1.35 DIAMOND JUBILEE HANDICAP (SPONSORED BY INVESTEC) (CLASS 2). £40,000 added 3YO only 1m 2f Penalty Value £24,900.

1	35-200	ENTIFAADHA (44) W Haggas 9 7	J P Murtagh 3
2	21-41	GRANDEUR (IRE) (7) (D) J Nosedale 9 3	W Buick 13
3	10-225	MISTER MUSIC (28) (C) R Hannan 9 2	R L Moore 10
4	10-42	OXFORD CHARLEY (USA) (22) M Magnusson 9 2	K Fallon 2
5	01-26	WROTHAM HEATH (14) Sir H Cecil 8 11	T Queally 7
6	112	HAIJAS (IRE) (14) M Johnston 9 9	P Hanagan 11
7	12-3	OPEN WATER (FR) (27) A Balding 8 7	Hayley Turner 5
8	0162-	POSITION (241) Sir M Prescott 8 6	Luke Morris 8
9	40-241	STAR DATE (IRE) (13) G Butler 8 4	D E Egan (5) 9
10	-61312	FENNELL BAY (IRE) (8) (BF) M Johnston 8 3	D De Sousa 1
11	333-2	SPOKE TO CARLO (16) Eve J-Houghton 8 3	John Fahy 6
12	521-12	THE GIVING TREE (IRE) (16) S Kirk 8 1	K O'Neill 4
13	223-10	BLADES LAD (15) (D) R Fahy 7 12	R Powell (3) 12

BETTING: 9-2 Grandeur, 6-1 Haijas, 13-2 Open Water, 15-2 Oxford Charley, Entifaadha, 10-1 Mister Music, 12-1 Position, Fennell Bay, Spoke To Carlo, 14-1 others.

2.05 INVESTEC WOODCOTE STAKES (LISTED) (CLASS 1). £25,000 added 2YO only 6f Penalty Value £14,178.

1	012	CHILWORTH ICON (31) M Channon 9 0	Martin Harley 4
2	011	EUXTON HALL (IRE) (21) (D) R Fahy 9 0	P Hanagan 3
3	011	HEAVY METAL (15) (D) M Johnston 9 0	S De Sousa 8
4	11	LASTCHANCELUCCAS (17) D Carroll 9 0	J Hart 5
5	21	LIBER (5) Sir M Prescott 9 0	Luke Morris 7
6	140	MOSSGO (IRE) (2) J Best 9 0	J Crowley 3
7	13	MRS BROWN'S BOY (17) R Harris 9 0	D E Egan 5
8	6	SCOTLAND FOREVER (IRE) (16) J P Shanahan (IRE) 9 0	C O'Donoghue 6
9	31	SURELY SPECTHFUL (USA) (8) K Ryan 8 9	J P Spencer 2

BETTING: 7-2 Heavy Metal, 4-1 Euxton Hall, 5-1 Lastchancelucas, 13-2 Liber, 7-1 Mrs Brown's Boy, 15-2 Surely Speightful, 8-1 Chilworth Icon, 12-1 Mossgo, 33-1 Scotland Forever.

2.40 DIAMOND JUBILEE CORONATION CUP (SPONSORED BY INVESTEC) (GROUP 1) (CLASS 1). £300,000 added 4YO PLUS 1m 4f Penalty Value £170,130.

1	111-6	BEATEN UP (63) (D) W Haggas 4 9 0	J P Murtagh 2
2	0110-0	MASKED MARVEL (28) J Gosden 4 9 0	W Buick 1

3	1115-2	QUEST FOR PEACE (IRE) (28) (D) L Cumani 4 9 0	K Fallon 5
4	323-21	RED CADEAUX (15) (D) J Dunlop 6 9 0	R L Moore 6
5	714343	ROBIN HOOD (IRE) (8) A P O'Brien (IRE) 4 9 0	J A Heffernan 3
6	351-22	ST NICHOLAS ABBEY (IRE) (26) (CD)(BF) A P O'Brien (IRE) 5 9 0	J P O'Brien 4

BETTING: 8-15 St Nicholas Abbey, 5-1 Beaten Up, 8-1 Masked Marvel, 10-1 Red Cadeaux, Quest For Peace, 100-1 Robin Hood.

3.15 INVESTEC SPECIALIST BANK 'DASH' (HANDICAP) (CLASS 2). £75,000 added 3YO PLUS 5f Penalty Value £46,688.

1	450-65	CAPTAIN DUNNE (IRE) (43) (CD) T Easterby 7 9 10	D Allan 11
2	0-0615	CONFSSIONAL (7) (D) Easterby 5 9 4(4ex)	T Durcan 7
3	2160-0	DESERT LAW (IRE) (62) (BF) A Balding 4 9 2	J Fortune 16
4	26-450	VOCATIONAL (USA) (7) (D) M Johnston 3 9 2	S De Sousa 9
5	260-02	BEAR BEHIND (IRE) (36) (D) T Dascombe 3 9 2	R Kingscote 20
6	2115-0	YORK GLORY (USA) (17) (D)(BF) K Ryan 4 9 1	J P Spencer 4
7	022-05	DICKIE'S LAD (IRE) (17) K Ryan 4 8 13	T Queally 6
8	20-500	FITZ FLYER (IRE) (16) (D) D Nicholls 6 8 12	K Fallon 8
9	0005-0	STONE OF FOLCA (270) (D) J Best 4 8 12	Luke Morris 2
10	030-06	COR JOCK (IRE) (42) (D) M Tref Shanahan (IRE) 4 8 11	C O'Donoghue 1
11	-51102	TAJAJUB (IRE) (38) (D) P Oates 5 8 11	J Monaghan 3
12	054-21	JUDGE N JURY (16) (D10) R Harris 8 8 10(4ex)	D E Egan (5) 14
13	0630-0	SOHRAAB (14) (D) H Morrison 8 8 9	K O'Neill 19
14	001-50	LIVING IT LARGE (FR) (24) (CD) E De Giles 5 8 8	John Fahy 10
15	1481-2	CATFISH (IRE) (7) (D) B Meenan 4 8 7	M Barzalona 15
16	0-0130	ARCTIC FEELING (IRE) (14) (D) R Fahy 4 8 7	P Hanagan 17
17	1463-1	LONG AWAITED (IRE) (36) (D) T Barron 4 8 6	M Dwyer 13
18	41-803	DIAMOND CHARLIE (IRE) (22) (BF) S Dow 4 8 4	Hayley Turner 5
19	4053-4	JAMESWAY (IRE) (38) (D)(BF) R Fahy 4 8 4	L Jones 18
20	355550	COURAGEOUS (IRE) (7) K Ryan 6 8 3	R De Silva (5) 12

BETTING: 13-2 Confessional, 8-1 Captain Dunne, 10-1 Long Awaited, Judge N Jury, York Glory, Catfish, Bear Behind, 12-1 Desert Law, Tajajub, Dickie's Lad, 16-1 others.

4.00 INVESTEC DERBY (GROUP 1) (CLASS 1). £1,325,000 added 3YO only 1m 4f Penalty Value £751,408.

1	133-1	ASTROLOGY (IRE) (22) A P O'Brien (IRE) 9 0	R L Moore 7
2	13-1	BONFIRE (16) A Balding 9 0	J Fortune 8
3	11-1	CAMELOT (28) A P O'Brien (IRE) 9 0	J P O'Brien 5
4	330-13	CAVALIER (IRE) (21) M Tref Shanahan (IRE) 9 0	Hayley Turner 1
5	11-11	MAIN SEQUENCE (USA) (21) (D) D Langran 9 0	J Monaghan 3
6	621421	MICKDAAM (IRE) (23) (D) R Fahy 9 0	P Hanagan 4
7	215	MINIMISE RISK (23) A Balding 9 0	J P Spencer 9
8	51-3	RUGGED CROSS (14) H Candy 9 0	D O'Neill 2
9	1-21	THOUGHT WORTHY (USA) (14) J Gosden 9 0	W Buick 6

BETTING: 8-15 Camelot, 9-2 Bonfire, 8-1 Astrology, 10-1 Main Sequence, 16-1 Thought Worthy, 25-1 Mickdaam, 50-1 Rugged Cross, 66-1 Minimise Risk, Cavalier.

4.50 INVESTEC ZEBRA HANDICAP (CLASS 2). £20,000 added 4YO PLUS 1m 4f Penalty Value £12,450.

1	3/0050	FIERY LAD (IRE) (38) (C) L Cumani 7 9 7	K Fallon 11
2	0006-0	SPANISH DUKE (IRE) (28) (C) J Dunlop 5 9 6	R L Moore 4
3	213-22	KING'S WARRIOR (FR) (23) (BF) P Chapple-Hyam 5 9 1	W Buick 15
4	1400-0	ROCK A DOODLE DOO (IRE) (27) (D) W Jarvis 5 9 1	M Dwyer 1
5	0-3003	OCEANWAY (USA) (23) M Johnston 4 9 0	S De Sousa 6
6	-20005	LYSSIO (GER) (35) M Attwater 5 8 13	M Coumbe (5) 9
7	21232-	A BOY NAMED SUZI (224) (D) J Eustace 4 8 12	Luke Morris 14
8	022-00	INCENDIO (206) (D) J Fanshawe 6 8 7	B J Powell (5) 3
9	42201-	SEASIDE SIZZLER (247) (D) R Beckett 5 8 11	J Crowley 7
10	1400-3	COMMUNICATOR (38) (D) A Balding 4 8 9	J P Spencer 10
11	021324	LAYLINE (IRE) (70) (D)(BF) Miss G Kellaway 5 8 7	D E Egan (5) 5
12	52530-	INCENDIO (206) (D) J Fanshawe 6 8 7	Hayley Turner 12
13	21520-	CRASSULA (259) (D) T Clement 4 8 6	J Jones 2
14	2306-1	QUIZ MISTRESS (26) (D) H Morrison 4 8 6	K O'Neill 13
15	2213/5	MEZZANISI (IRE) (27) (D) H Morrison 4 8 6	P Hanagan 8
16	-66021	O MA LAD (IRE) (8) (D) S Kirk 4 8 2	R De Silva (5) 16

BETTING: 9-2 King's Warrior, 7-1 Oceanway, 15-2 Communicator, 8-1 A Boy Named Suzi, Quiz Mistress, 10-1 Seaside Sizzler, Spanish Duke, O Ma Lad, 12-1 others.

5.25 INVESTEC OUT OF THE ORDINARY HANDICAP (CLASS 2). £20,000 added 4YO PLUS 6f Penalty Value £12,450.

1	00-315	LUI REI (ITY) (14) (D) R Cowell 6 9 7	J Crowley 7
2	1100-0	SWISS CROSS (14) (CD) P McEntee 5 9 4	R Kingscote 14
3	106-26	SUMMERINTECHTY (IRE) (14) (D) E De Giles 5 8 13	John Fahy 4
4	055362	BABY STRANGE (17) (D) S Shaw 6 8 12	S Levey (5) 8
5	00540-	FIREBACK (267) (D) D Kubler 5 8 10	M Barzalona 17
6	44-003	SUTTON VENY (IRE) (16) (D)(BF) J Gask 6 8 9	J P Spencer 1
7	020-04	WE HAVE A DREAM (32) (D11) W Muir 7 8 9	M Dwyer 11
8	0-0250	ELNA BRIGHT (6) (D) P Carter 7 8 9	Jemma Marshall (5) 2
9	201-00	AMENABLE (IRE) (14) (D) D Nicholls 5 8 8	Martin Harley 6
10	144102	PISCAN (USA) (8) (D) T Keddy 7 8 8	K Fallon 5
11	50-401	TITUS GENT (209) (D10) J Gask 7 8 7	R De Silva (5) 13
12	510-00	SACROSANCTUS (7) (D) S Dixon 4 8 7	S De Sousa 3
13	300-00	SWILLY FERRY (USA) (44) (D) D Nicholls 5 8 6	Hayley Turner 16
14	0100-3	NOVERRE TO GO (IRE) (7) (D) R Harris 6 8 6	Luke Morris 12
15	1000-6	BALDEMAR (55) (D) R Fahy 7 8 8	P Hanagan 9
16	40-010	MANDALAY KING (IRE) (28) (D) Mrs M Fife 7 8 2	K O'Neill 15

BETTING: 5-1 Baby Strange, 11-2 Sutton Veny, 6-1 Piscan, 15-2 Summerintechty, 8-1 Noverre To Go, 10-1 Lui Rei, 12-1 We Have A Dream, Titus Gent, 16-1 others.

TODAY'S SELECTIONS

BEVERLEY: 2.00 Rosie Future, 2.30 Red Lover, 3.00 Ask The Guru, 3.35 Feeling Good, 4.30 Steel City Boy, 5.05 Free Zone, 5.40 Cathcart Castle, 6.10 Select Committee.

CATTERICK: 1.45 Overrule, 2.15 Pavers Star, 2.45 Save The Bees, 3.20 Orpsie Boy, 4.20 One For Joulies, 4.55 Green Park, 5.30 Love Island.

CARTMEL: 6.15 Samstown, 6.45 Dundock, 7.15 Red Kingdom, 7.45 Fog Patches, 8.20 Nobunaga, 8.50 Gray Hession, 9.20 Letterpress.

EPSOM: 1.35 Wrotham Heath, 2.05 Euxton Hall, 2.40 Masked Marvel, 3.15 Bear Behind, 4.00 BONFIRE (NAP), 4.50 Layline, 5.25 Sutton Veny.

HAYDOCK: 1.40 Pistol, 2.10 English Summer, 2.35 Red Jack, 3.10 Set To Music, 3.40 Samminder, 4.40 Mince, 5.15 Red Quartet.

MUSSELBURGH: 1.55 Satsuma, 2.25 Queen's Estate, 2.55 Mayoman, 3.30 Sparkling Portrait, 4.25 Bosun Breeze, 5.00 Desert Romance.

STRATFORD: 6.00 Kings Destiny, 6.30 Fort View, 7.00 Dubai Crest, 7.30 Herons Well, 8.05 Dippity Doo Dah, 8.35 Mon Chevalier, 9.05 Bucking The Trend.

TRAMORE: 2.30 Security Breach, 3.05 Lady Imola, 3.40 Beat The Stars, 4.15 Hartside, 4.45 Hilary, 5.20 Clarach, 5.50 Cool Kid.

DOUBLE: Bonfire and Masked Marvel.

ISSN 0969-563X



Published by Newsquest Media (Southern) Ltd, and printed at Newsquest (Southern) Ltd, from its offices at Newspaper House, Test Lane, Redbridge, Southampton, SO16 9JX. Telephone: 023 8042 4800. Registered at the Post Office as a newspaper. 123rd year. No. 37481